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**A SERIES OF LETTERS,
DESCRIPTIVE OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,**

**IN THE
GULPH OF ST. LAURENCE,**

**ADDRESSED
TO THE REV. JOHN WIGHTMAN,
MINISTER OF KIRKMAHOE,
DUMFRIES-SHIRE.**

**BY
WALTER JOHNSTONE,**
A Native of the same County.

The Author of these Letters went out for the express purpose of surveying Prince Edward Island, and collecting information on the subject of Emigration. During two Summers, and one Winter, he was assiduously engaged in the prosecution of this object; and the small Volume now presented to the Public, will be found to contain a full and particular Account of the Climate, Soil, Natural Productions, and Mode of Husbandry adopted in the Island; together with Sketches of Scenery, Manners of the Inhabitants, &c. &c.; the whole being intended for the guidance of future Emigrants, particularly as to what Implements and Necessaries it may be proper to provide themselves with before crossing the Atlantic.

Dumfries:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

By J. Swan.

1822.

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PREFACE.

THE author of the following Letters is not a learned, but a shrewd and thinking man. He became interesting to me as being the brother of a man whom I have long esteemed, and who, amidst the various hardships of his humble lot, found means, by reading and reflection, to cultivate remarkably the natural powers of his vigorous and ardent mind, and to court the Muse of his native country with very considerable success:—Mr John Johnstone, at Craighouse, in the parish of Hutton.

When Mr Walter Johnstone, some years ago, was going to Prince Edward Island, I gave him some assistance as the brother of my old friend, and as a person who, I thought, would likely do credit to my opinion of his natural sagacity and talent. I have been abundantly repaid for any friendship that I then shewed him, by his addressing his Letters to me, and acknowledging my attention to him in so grateful and flattering a manner.

My favourable opinion of his mental ability is, I think, fully justified by the specimen of it which is exhibited in these pages. There is a meagre "Description of Prince Edward Island" (which I have seen) published a few years ago at Bristol, and honoured with the approbation of the late Governor, Edmund Fanning, Esq. with a Map of the Island prefixed. But the Description contained in these sheets is of a quite different kind, and surpasses any account which I have ever seen of that interesting part of the New World. It is, every thing considered, a meritorious production, as it discovers an accuracy of observation, an ingenuity and an acuteness of thought, and an unfettered flow of lively and forcible language, worthy of a more practised and renowned traveller. The objects of description are judiciously selected, and are often set before "the mind's eye" in a very graphic and picturesque man-

ner. The account of the burning forest, of the heat and cold respectively, of summer and winter in the island, of the fire flies, &c. &c. will be acknowledged by every reader to justify all that I have said with respect to these Letters. The counsels and directions which the author gives to his countrymen, respecting emigration to the Island, seem to be sagacious and sensible, and are not the least valuable part of the publication. Mr Johnstone appears to be, agreeably to his own declaration, entirely disinterested and impartial, animated solely by an honest zeal to communicate accurate and useful information. I had promised to correct any grammatical inaccuracies which might be in the Letters, should they be published, and, in part, have redeemed my pledge; but the most part of this task has been performed by a Gentleman whose name I have not authority to mention here, but who was fully able to accomplish what he kindly undertook, and also to correct the proofs—another obligation which the author owes to the same gentleman. A word, now and then, has been changed or placed in a different part of the sentence, but no violent hand has been laid upon the manuscript, or the least alteration made which could at all injure the native raciness and genuine flavour of the work.

JOHN WIGHTMAN.

Kirkmahoe Manse, }
Feb. 12th, 1822. }

LETTER FIRST.

MURRAY HARBOUR, MAY 30th, 1829.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

I HAVE now, through the kindness of indulgent Providence, reached in safety and in good health my desired haven ; and after pouring out my heart in gratitude to Him “ whom winds and waves obey,” it is certainly my bounden duty, as early as possible, to express my thankfulness to my friends and acquaintance at home, who in such a generous manner, furnished the means of transporting me hither. I would therefore beg of them all, should this letter ever reach its destination, to accept the warmest heartfelt gratitude it is in my power to cherish or express. But I have to thank you, Sir, not only as one of my most liberal friends, but as the first who encouraged me, by your extraordinary liberality, to hope that by the help of my other friends, my wants for the voyage might all be supplied : And I have not forgotten the injunction you laid upon me, and which I promised to fulfil, namely, that I should write you a fair and unbiassed Description of this Island—a description which you had the goodness to say, if it appeared worthy of public notice, you would prepare for the press. But that one of my capacity and learning should be capable of writing any thing worthy of such a high honour, is rather beyond my most sanguine expectations. Indeed as to learning, I must candidly confess I know nothing beyond my mother tongue, and that not grammatically ; and having no experience in committing my thoughts to paper, you must neither expect dignity of language, nor elegance of description. But two things I promise, which to perform I shall exert my utmost ability ; namely, to spare no pains in my inquiries into every thing that falls under my eye, and if possible to yield to no bias in stating the truth. And I am persuaded, that although much has been

written concerning this new world, there is yet room for more before the inhabitants of the old countries can have a proper idea of it. It is needless to say such knowledge might be useful in ascertaining distinctly who should emigrate, and who should not; and might also have a tendency to reconcile the minds of those who cannot or ought not to travel, to remain more contentedly at home. For the above purposes I shall write you occasionally, as I travel over the Island, when I have collected any thing worthy of your own notice, or that of the public. I shall therefore, without further preamble or apology, begin my Narrative and Description, referring the whole of what I may write to your better judgment, whether it deserves to be seen by any other eye than your own.

All things being ready on board the brig *Diana*, of Dumfries, on Tuesday the 18th of April, we sailed next morning at four o'clock from Carsethorn, foot of the river Nith. The night had been calm, but towards sun-rise the wind sprung up from the west, directly a-head of us; and while we passed down the Solway Frith, we had to tack about from side to side. As the day advanced, the breeze increased; and by the agitation of the vessel, all the passengers on board, forty-five in number, became more or less sea-sick, excepting the young children, who were never troubled with it during the whole voyage. But one good effect arose from the universal sickness prevalent at this time; the pain of body which we felt, left no leisure to think of the loss of life, which otherwise, from our total unacquaintance with such a scene, might have been alarming to some of us in no ordinary degree. I said all the grown up people were at this time affected with sea-sickness, but the pregnant women were most distressingly so, both now and afterwards, and the young men and women more so than those who were more advanced in years. As to myself, who am fifty-five years of age, I never was sick after the first.

day; but I had eaten nothing that day, and sparingly the preceding one; and whether this was the cause or not I cannot say, but a little giddiness in my head when the sea ran high, was all the complaint I had afterwards. We had two female passengers on board, the one sixty-seven, and the other seventy-five years of age; and allowing for the infirmities of advanced years, I must say that these two women stood the voyage as well as the halest of us. Allow me to state, before I drop this part of the subject, that except a little sea-sickness, the passengers in general enjoyed good health. They had brought no contagious disorder on board with them, which was a most material point, and the vessel was certainly one of the healthiest possible. Our beds were dry and comfortable in all weather, and we were able always to keep the hatches open. Our water was good, being put up in clean new casks, and the supply abundant. The ship was free from all vermin whatever. Our Captain was cheerful and accommodating in the highest degree; and to any of the passengers who had need of cordials, the best his cabin afforded were offered in the most obliging manner possible. The sailors were friendly, and willing to help us at all times, in any thing we were unable to do for ourselves, for which we gave them in return nearly the whole stock of spirits we had laid in; for few of us could swallow any thing stronger than water or beer, our taste was so much altered by the sea air. Every kind of cooking was performed upon the deck, except during four or five days, when it was rather inconvenient from the roughness of the sea; and except two or three married women who were pregnant, and a few sucking children who were unwell with colds, and who also suffered from a want of dry clothes,* we were all rather improved in health than otherwise; and, as there was neither dishonesty nor

* Families that have sucking children would do well to provide a pail of fresh water for washing their clothes, as none is allowed at sea for this purpose.

distrust amongst us, I may say with truth that a more comfortable passage was never made across the Atlantic. Should any of my countrymen, therefore, wish to take the same course, I could not recommend to them a more clean, healthy, and comfortable ship, than the *Diana* of Dumfries, nor a more kind and obliging Captain than Captain Martin.

On the 28th day we saw American land, I suppose the south side of Cape Breton, but the fog was so thick we could only discern the shore; and it being impossible to proceed forward in safety on account of the rockyness of the neighbourhood, we had again to stand out to sea. The fogs, however, still continuing close and thick upon us, we had to steer backwards and forwards upon what are called the Banks of Newfoundland for the space of eight days. This was the most unpleasant part of the whole passage; it was both cold and damp, and the sails rained down sometimes so heavy as almost to quench the fire we cooked our victuals with. But to our great joy, at the end of this time it cleared up, and passing by Cape North, we entered the gulph of St. Laurence. Next day having little wind, we made small progress, but on Friday morning we discovered Prince Edward Island about nine o'clock, rising like a dark cloud from the bosom of the ocean. With a favourable wind we passed along the south-east side of the Island in a westerly direction, and were much surprised at the low appearance of the land, which, from the dark colour and closeness of the wood, looked exactly at a distance like a heath-covered plain in Scotland. But passing along, we approached nearer the shore, and soon discovered little clearances here and there next the houses, which we were glad to see look so neat at a distance, and smoke ascending from a chimney was announced by the first discoverer as an object worthy the attention of all on board. About three o'clock we had stood so near shore as to require a pilot.— Several shots were fired to invite one on board, when

three young men came in a canoe cut from the solid tree. As they came alongside, I examined every part of their dress very particularly; it consisted of jacket and trowsers, which were all of the Island manufacture, and the same as Scotch blanketing, home-dyed blue, some of it variously shaded, the warp from the waft. They had mocaskins upon their feet, and upon the whole had rather a rough appearance, but discovered great agility, polished manners, and spoke the English language as fine as Londoners. Immediately we were conducted into the harbour of Three Rivers in safety, and had several visitors on board from the adjacent dwellings that night. The appearance of the country, viewed from the deck of the ship, was so wild and uncultivated, that it struck a damp upon us all; and next day, when some of our company went on shore with their firelocks in their hands, in order to see what game they could meet with in the woods, and take a nearer survey of the soil, they returned in the evening with rueful countenances, having seen nothing to shoot, and being altogether disappointed in their expectations of the country. Indeed, it is not possible for one who has been brought up in an old cultivated country to form a correct picture, in imagination, of one that is new and in its natural state; to understand it rightly they must come and see it. But to return; the forbidding appearance of the country induced three families of our company to go over to Nqva Scotia, in the hope of meeting with something more like home; but in this I learnt afterwards, they were completely disappointed. As Murray Harbour was the port we had all taken our passage to, on the following Wednesday as many as chose to go were sent round in a small vessel, a distance of about fourteen miles by sea. But although we had a pretty fair and brisk wind at the out-set, heavy rains came on, and it settled down to a perfect calm, so that we could not make our short voyage that day, and had to lodge another night upon the fluctuating element.

wet and cold, all without beds, and some of us without any shelter whatever. Next morning as we entered the harbour, we were a little better comforted with the appearance of the settlement than the one we had left. It is not large, but regularly settled and cleared a considerable way back from the water's edge; the ground rising with a gentle acclivity on each side the river, or rather I should call it the bay or creek. The land is all of a dry soil, and what was in wheat crop, or in sown grass, was assuming in different shades a beautiful verdant green. Had it been inclosed with dykes and hedge-rows, it would have equalled in beauty of appearance any part of the old country I am acquainted with; but their manner of fencing with wood has rather an uncouth appearance to the eye of a Briton. But my paper reminds me I must soon close, and I shall only add that while we lodged all night upon the water, the yell (for I cannot call it the song) of the frogs, was the only music we heard in the adjoining woods; and as we passed up the bay, we saw some Indian females cross before us in two canoes made of birch bark,*

* The Indians upon the island are of what is called the Mick Mack tribe. They are very quiet and inoffensive people. They live mostly by fishing, hunting, and making baskets of various kinds. They live in wigwams or huts, made of small poles placed in a circular form, wide at the bottom, and drawn together at the top, and covered with birch bark. They are not hindered from pitching their huts in any part they please. The men generally wear a coat of blue cloth, with sleeves, and so roomy in the underpart as to overlap in the front, round which they wear a bandage above the loins, which, it is said, they slacken or make tight, as they happen to be full or hungry. As their upper garment covers their thighs, they seldom have trowsers all of a piece. Any old cloth will do for the upper part; and a piece of better blue cloth hanging round the legs, and tied above the knee, is generally worn by them. They have a straw hat upon their heads, and moccasins upon their feet. These are made of raw hide, which is turned up all round the foot, with a vaump sewed in on the roof of the foot, and a thong laced round the heel, and bound above the vaump or tongue at the instep. The females wear a hood made of blue cloth; they take a piece of cloth in the form of a half sheet of large paper, overlapping two of the corners in the way that grocers make up their paper to wrap small parcels in; and placing this upon their heads with the long tapering point uppermost, and the two loose corners hanging down at each ear, they have a very grotesque appearance. They wear a very short jacket or bed-gown, and a large petticoat, generally of piece-dyed blue cloth, with the variegated selvaige round the bottom, and the upper part bound

whose dress had a curious appearance at a distance. After we landed we were shown an empty house of Mr Cambridge's, who is a large proprietor of land here, and very encouraging to new settlers. This house had been kindly ordered by his agent for our accommodation for the present: we were thankful for the unsought favour, and having some cod fish thrown us in compliment as we passed some fishers the day before, we prepared for dinner as quickly as possible, and with the fish and the remainder of our sea-store, of which each contributed a part, we made a hearty meal, having the three necessary requisites to such, namely, health, plenty to eat, and a good appetite. We spent the evening in carrying our luggage from the shore, and making down our beds upon the floor of our new habitation. I am, &c,

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## LETTER SECOND.

MURRAY HARBOUR, JUNE 27th, 1820.

*Reverend and Dear Sir,*

As I hope you received my last, I shall not recapitulate any thing that was then said, but proceed to describe new scenes. Indeed every thing is, or seems new about me here. The sun, whose rays are more vertical than in Scotland, appears to have both more light and heat; the sky is generally so pure that the eye cannot discern the least vapour or cloud to intercept the sun's rays; and being without the least breath of wind to fawn the opening leaf, the air is sultry and enervating in an astonishing degree. When a shower rises, it gently distils its contents, and is generally soon over; and the greatest rain in summer is

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round the waist like a Highlandman's kilt. They are converted to the Romish faith, and wear silver crosses hanging down upon their breasts. Their eyes and hair are jet black, their cheek-bones prominent, their skin of a copper or oily colour, and from the dirtiness of their food and clothing, they smell very rank.

generally of no long continuance; neither does it trench the soil nor swell the streams as in Britain. The soil in this island has a uniformity in it, which, I suppose, is no where else to be found. The greater part of it is of red sand and clay, but so mixed with sand as instantly to absorb the rain that falls upon it: at the same time the soil is as fine in its texture as if it had all been pounded in a mortar. The other part of the soil consists of a white sand, so fine as almost to resemble white clay. This is spread over the surface of the whole Island, in some parts more, and some less, but generally it abounds most near the shores and in what are called swamps. Where the ground is dry, and much of the white sand upon it, it is not reckoned so good for heavy crops of any kind, but particularly hay and pasture; but when it is in good heart, in a backward season, it yields the best wheat in quality, in the island. The soil is so mixed with sand, and is so light and free, that there is no clod seen upon it almost any where. The land in its natural state is very poor, and favourable to the production of almost nothing but timber, and where the timber is cut, and not burnt upon the surface, it will even then produce little or no grass, but will soon spring up in new wood, but always of a different kind from what was upon it before. Indeed it has as great a tendency to return to the production of timber of some kind or other, as the wildest heathy ground in Scotland has to return to heather, even after cultivation has commenced; for after the land here has been cleared and under cultivation many years, and afterwards left to itself, it is immediately covered anew with some kind of wood, generally of spruce var (silver fir) and white birch. This is verified in all the clearances the French had made upon it more than sixty years ago. The land then cleared has all returned to its natural state, and now grown up with wood of the above descriptions. Here winter lingers so long that the natives seldom can begin cultivating the ground before the 1st of May, and this year, when we landed at this place, in the

end of that month, their wheat sowing was but finished a week or two before; and they were just engaged in putting in their potatoe crop upon their clear land, for setting them in the new burnt wood ground had not yet commenced. They can sow oats as late as the fifteenth of June in hope of reaping a good crop, every thing being favourable; and I have been well assured of potatoes being set upon the new burnt wood ground as late as the fourth of July, and the crop proved, tho' not the best in quality, yet the largest in quantity of any they had. Even barley sown as late as the seventh of the same month had yielded a pretty good crop; (this I witnessed myself.) The progress of vegetation here is uncommonly rapid. Wheat braird, in warm weather, is sometimes above ground in five days, and barley in three; and I have been told that garden peas have been pulled for the table in little more than forty days from the time they were planted. Their land sown out with grass-seed, for what they call upland hay, is not generally so well covered in the bottom as in Scotland; even that which has been under the scythe several years, where the snow has been swept from the surface, and the frost has had free access to it, is so strong as actually to destroy some of the roots of the grass. I have often examined these blainey places, and found the old grass lying withered in the bottom, and little new springing up. Yet when the land has been laid down in good order, and covered well with snow during winter, very good crops of hay are got for six or eight years successively, without any additional manure whatever. Their implements of agriculture are very deficient indeed; except a few ploughs that have been imported from Britain, they have not many of their own making that deserve the name. They use a very broad sock or share in the form of the Lothian plough, and sometimes lock the coulter and sock together by making a hole in the backside of the former, in which the point of the latter is inserted. This is for the purpose of ploughing rooty land. They

make very broad furrows, and I apprehend not deep enough, and lay them too flat. They set their potatoes in the same manner as the Scotch people did fifty years ago; that is, they plant them in every second or third furrow, with the dung spread upon the surface before they begin to plough and plant; and as the ground is often not well cleaned before planting, they have not room to work it and clean it well afterwards. This injures their potatoe crop, and every succeeding one; yet many of them would persuade themselves that a better way had never been found out, after all I could say to the contrary. They run almost all their cart wheels without any iron round them, the soil being so free from stones or gravel, that bare timber lasts a long time. But they haul, as they call it, every thing in the winter upon sledges or slaves, as they name them, upon which, when they have good snow or ice to go upon, they can carry a great load. They plough mostly with oxen. Their horses are rather small, and light in the make, but uncommonly hardy and spirited. Their black cattle are all horned, and some of them of a stunted appearance; but it is no wonder, for they are fed upon wheat straw the greater part of the winter, and often allowed only a scanty portion of the same.—When they have to drive them early in the summer to the woods in their weak condition, they are in danger of getting mired in the swampy places, and in this way several are lost. They are obliged to keep all the calves sucking at home, to entice the cows to return from the woods at night; but they have to wander so far before the cravings of nature are satisfied, that even this inducement fails to draw them home sometimes for a night or two together. When this happens, their milk is greatly injured, or altogether lost. To remedy this they hang a bell to the neck of the one they have most dependence upon, and if she leads the way home, the rest will generally follow. This bell serves also another valuable purpose, namely, to find out their retreat in

the woods, when the people are obliged to go in search of them themselves. Their sheep are of the white-faced kind mostly, but lean and long legged. They are exceedingly healthy, and produce fine wool, though in small quantities. They are never laid with tar, and have to lie in the house all winter, and to be fed with upland hay; and as their cattle run at large in the woods during summer, they almost all of them keep more stock than they have winter feeding for, consequently all their fodder is eaten up, and their dunghills are not half so big as might be formed from the dung of the same number of cattle in Scotland. Their houses are all constructed of wood, some of squared, and others unsquared logs, laid horizontally, and dove-tailed at the corners. Others have the wood set perpendicularly, and fixed to beams above and below, previously framed together, the whole size of the building. This is called a frame-house: some are thatched with birch bark, others with boards; and the old settlers generally have them shingled. This is pine split thin, and dressed with a drawing knife like slate, and nailed on in the same manner. This covering, when painted, will last long, and looks exceedingly handsome. They cover the walls on the outside, when properly finished, with dressed boards nailed on horizontally, overlapping one another to keep out the wind and rain; and when they are well done up in this manner, shingled and painted, they appear both shewy and handsome. Some of them are lathed and plastered inside; but as lime is not easily got, the greater part that are finished within are lined with dressed boards both on the walls and cieling. Their floors are all of boards, with large cellars below, to keep their potatoes in safety from the frost during winter. To these cellars they descend by a trap door in the middle of the floor. Their chimneys are built of stone below, and adapted for burning wood; but the upper part is often finished with wood, and clay mixed with straw, or

what is known in Scotland by the name of cat and clay. But they are now getting brick prepared upon the Island, which in all probability will soon be used as a substitute for wood and clay.

These houses are uncommonly hot in summer, and cold in winter, and soon begin to rot at the ground, if not underfooted with brick or stone. Observing this I told the Islanders mud walls would be more comfortable in all seasons; that they would last longer, and be less expense in the building, were they once acquainted with the mode of using the excellent clay they possess. As they have no proper paving stones, not only their barns but their stables and byres are all laid with wood, and sometimes a part is laid with planks before the hall door; but many of their houses are done up in the rudest manner possible—the logs being neither covered with dressed boards inside nor out, and the spaces between them only filled up with moss or fog. This at the best admits a great deal of wind whenever it blows hard, and must make them dismal habitations in winter.

The way of fencing their ground is done in the following manner: they prepare a great number of small poles, called longers, about fourteen feet in length; of these they lay down a row upon the ground in a zig-zag manner, where they intend the fence to be erected—the end of one pole crossing over the end of the adjoining one, in a slanting direction; and thus they pile one course of polls upon another, till it is nearly high enough for a fence. At the part where the poles meet, they fix two other poles in the ground, one on each side of the fence, leaning against it so as to cross each other at its top; and placing a row of their heaviest polls above all, the fence is finished. This pailing, or whatever else it may be called, from its zig-zag form, and the additional stability it receives from the poles fixed in the ground, is a fence capable of turning almost any beast whatever. Other fences are constructed

in a form somewhat different. The poles are laid in straight lines, or nearly so, with the ends of one course of poles running a little past the adjoining ones; at which joining, a pole is driven into the ground on both sides of the fence, close to the horizontal ones, and bound together by strong withes; and when finished, it is much more pleasant to look at than the other. But as it is not near so firm, it is little practised but around gardens or on public road sides, where the cattle from the woods are not likely to make their severest attacks. These fences, when constructed of good poles of spruce or var (silver fir) will last, it is said, twelve or fifteen years. Fences of this kind are erected betwixt farm and farm along the shores, and between the clear ground and the woods; but they have not begun to subdivide their ground almost any where, nor to erect any earthen dykes, not even round a kitchen garden. Neither is there a thorn hedge in the whole Island !\*

I am, &c.

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LETTER THIRD.

CHARLOTTE TOWN, OCT. 20th, 1820.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

You will recollect I said, that to have a right knowledge of this country, one must come and see it. Notwithstanding of this, I find nothing so much wanting as money and good Ministers, although I cannot indulge the hope that you will cross the Atlantic to gratify your curiosity, and instruct the people.—

* When I wrote the above, I apprehended these assertions were facts; but after examining the gardens of Charlotte Town more narrowly, I found one of them with an excellent hedge round it, of British hawthorns, which were thriving as well as they do at home; and on a farm near the same place, some British thorns have been injudiciously planted upon the top of the dykes, and for want of moisture they are thriving very badly. There are also near Charlotte Town a few earthen dykes on the road sides, without hedges, and wood pailing upon the top of them.

Having now obtained a pretty extended view of the country myself, I shall, to the best of my ability, in the present Letter, attempt a description of the woods and general appearance of the country; and, could I do justice to the subject, if my sketch did not prove interesting to those who are determined to remain at home, it might still, in some measure, be instructive to those who may hereafter come to settle here, by preventing, in a certain degree, that surprise and disappointment which almost all strangers have felt on their first landing upon this Island, or I believe in any part of the western world.

I may begin by observing, that the country is one entire forest of wood; all the exceptions to the truth of this literally are not much more, even including the present clearances, than the dark spots upon the moon's face, as they appear to the naked eye, compared with the brighter parts thereof. This forest the natives distinguish by the names of hard wood and soft wood. Each of these contains a great variety of kinds, such as oak, ash, elm, beech, maple, birch, alder, and poplar, with many other kinds which rank among the first division, while pine, hemlock, spruce var, juniper (larch) rank amongst the latter. Of many of these there is a variety of species also. Of the mapple there is white rock or curly, and bird-eye; white, yellow, and black of the birch; and of the spruce, black, red and white. In some parts the wood is growing in a promiscuous manner; that is, we meet with a mixture of hard and soft wood; in other parts there are clumps of a particular kind found by themselves, such as hemlock, spruce, birch, and beech. Amongst the old woods the cause of this is in the soil, upon which these are found, being more congenial to the production of that particular kind than any other; but where the old timber has been destroyed by being cleared for cultivation or by fire (for many thousand acres have been destroyed by fire upon the Island) another cause is assignable for a particular kind of wood be-

ing found in a particular place besides the real nature of the soil. The whole Island, when viewed at a distance at sea, looks as if there was not a tree upon it. The trees grow so close together, and are so equal in height, that in spring their dark colour resembles heath; but upon a nearer approach to the shore, the wood assumes the appearance of strong growing hemp, for it is almost every where in the southern side of the Island choked up with spruce round the shore, as thick in proportion as hemp will grow; some of it dead and withered, though still standing, and some of it broken by the middle, forming a thicket impenetrable almost to the foot of man. Round the greater part of the Island the flowing tide washes the bottom of a steep bank of various heights, from four to more than twenty feet; and where the greater part of this bank is not solid rock, the sea is wasting the land in exposed situations considerably. On the top of this bank, the thicket I have described is found extending to the utmost verge of the precipice, and some of the trees having lost their roots, are to be seen fallen or falling over. After passing through this stripe of soft wood we find larger trees, and growing more apart; but it is still unpleasant walking, for should there be little or no underwood, which is often the case, yet one's way is entirely blocked up by trees fallen down, some broken by the middle, others torn up by the roots in all the different stages of decay, from the tree newly overthrown to the one nearly assimilated in rottenness to the soil which gave it birth. But there is another impediment to travelling in the woods: many of the trees have been torn up by the roots with high winds, which have raised little hills of earth, which the natives call cradle hills. These render travelling in the woods additionally unpleasant; and where they are large, require much labour before the land is fully levelled. Of all the different kinds of wood upon the Island, the beech, when growing separate by itself, is the most beauti-

ful. The ground it occupies is the freest from underwood, or any thing to obstruct one's way, while in summer it furnishes the most delightfully refreshing shade over head of any I have met with. The land where it abounds is the easiest cleared both as to the cutting, burning, and rotting of the stumps; and the land, when cleared, is reckoned the second best in quality of any in the Island. A mixture of hard wood with a small portion of soft wood in it, is next to beech in beauty, easiness to clear, and is also indicative of the best soil upon the Island. Hemlock, a kind of fir that is split into laths in Scotland, grows in clumps. Some of it is found of an amazing size, being from two to three and a half feet in diameter, and from fifty to seventy or eighty feet high, with a few puny mutilated branches near its top. These trees are exceedingly heavy to cut and pile, and very difficult to burn. The stumps will stand undecayed in the ground twenty or thirty years before they can be easily eradicated. The soil congenial to the production of this kind of wood, may be reckoned the third in quality upon the Island; yet in backward seasons it will surpass any other description of soil in the quality of the grain it produces.—Pine, which is what we call Scotch fir at home, is not found but in detached trees, here and there in the woods, and is now all cut every where near the shores. Spruce and var fall next to be noticed. The ground naturally productive of these may be ranked as the worst in quality of any in the Island. It is all of a swampy nature; that is, a soil with much of the white sand I spoke of upon the surface, and a red clay below, of such an adhesive nature as not to allow the wet to get down to a proper depth.

These swamps have not been cleared and cultivated in the country any where, and are avoided as land not worth clearing and fencing. But I was told, and I believe it, that some of the gardens in Charlotte Town, which are of this nature, are the most productive of any, after being drained and

trenched. Some of these swamps are growing with black spruce, so rank as not to be much more than a foot apart, about the thickness of a pitchfork handle, and from fifteen to twenty feet high, with the branches almost all dead, but a few at their top.— But where the water has not a proper descent from these swamps, a quagmire is sometimes formed, in which the cattle, in their weak state, are in great danger of getting mired and lost. The next thing I shall notice is the *barrens*. These have few or no trees upon them, but are covered with a kind of shrub, they call myrtle, which overruns the surface like heath, but resembles galls that grow in the mosses in Scotland. This land is very dry and sandy, and in its present state well deserves the name it obtains. It would be easily cleared, but would require much dung or good soil to make it productive. But excepting in the neighbourhood of St Peters, there is little of this upon the Island.

I may next turn your attention to the burnt woods, which are occasioned by the fire running away from where the people are burning timber to clear the land. When the fire gets hold of woods much mixed with soft wood, it runs sometimes several miles, and forms in its progress, I am told (and I partly saw it) one of the most awful scenes in nature; flying when the wind is high with amazing rapidity, making a noise like thunder, and involving the neighbourhood in a dense cloud of smoke. It sometimes kills cattle and wild beasts in the woods, and alarms new settlers who have small clearances round their houses, and who have to stand with water ready to quench the first spark that may alight upon them, or fly with their children, not knowing where to find safety. More than sixty years ago, a great fire was kindled upon the northern side of the Island, it is said by a spark from the pipe of an Indian, which overran the greater part of the northern shore. The ground it overran is still discoverable, being all sprung up of spruce var, and white

birch, of apparently from forty to fifty years growth. But burnt woods are to be seen in the neighbourhood of almost every settlement, some of them of considerable magnitude. But how to represent to your imagination a correct picture of these burnt woods, baffles my skill. They form, in reality, a scene the most ruinous, confused, and disgusting, the eye can possibly look upon. If it is an agreeable object for one who admires the beauties of Nature, to behold a tree, or a number of trees, exhibiting all the symptoms of vegetable life and health, firmly rooted in the ground, rising to a dignified height, with the bark full of sap, the branches luxuriant, and well covered with foliage,—it must prove the very reverse to see many acres, nay, many square miles, of standing trees, all dead, leafless, scorched, and going fast to ruin. If soft wood, and recently burnt, its green foliage is all consumed, its bark half burnt, and covered with a sooty blackness; if hard wood, and viewed at a distance, one would think it did not know that summer was come. But more narrowly examined, the trunks are found rotting, the bark partly peeled off, the leafless branches falling down, and the whole verging fast to decay. But if a few years more have elapsed since the fatal flame passed through it, a scene more revolting remains yet to be described. Some of the trees are overturned by the roots, with great mounds of earth attached; others broken at different heights, where most weakened by the fire. These all lying upon the ground, in the most confused manner possible, several courses deep, like dead men's bodies after a sanguinary battle, form a confused mass impassable for either man or beast, but with the greatest difficulty. This is a faint representation of what is lying on the ground, but when the eye is turned to what is still standing, we behold trunks of trees, of various heights, having lost their tops as if they had been cut with chain shot, and here and there a huge pine or hemlock, a great unsightly object, with a trunk thicker

than a corn sack, barkless and weather-beaten, raising its top, perhaps a hundred feet high, into the air, and reaching out a few half wasted branches, as if to implore the mercy of the raging winds, every blast of which threatened its final overthrow.

If these feeble representations have conveyed any correct idea of the appearance of the burnt woods, I must next turn your attention to the bad effects of the burning. If the land is not directly cleared and cultivated, which cannot possibly be the case, a weed they call fire-weed, springs up as rank and strong as hemp, which entirely impoverishes the land. This is followed with fern or rasp bushes on some ground, and next with wood, spruce var, or white birch; and should none of these spring up immediately, the land gets so poor and dried with the rays of the sun, which have now free access to it, that it becomes unfit for any crop, without summer fallowing; and to produce a succession of crops it must also have dung. From this you will learn, that ground that has been overrun with fire, is damaged in more than one respect. The land is rendered poor, and the wood is lost; for fresh green hard wood is of more value than you can possibly be aware of. When the hard wood is burnt upon a farm, the people have no convenient way of supplying themselves with fuel for their fires at home, as they cannot muster cash to purchase coals from the mainland, where there is plenty, and not far distant.

I may observe, that the woods, in an old cultivated country, are highly ornamental as well as useful; but here they are the reverse: for although they are very needful for several purposes, they are not at all attractive in their appearance. One cause of this is, their being so extensive that the eye can discern little else but wood or water every where; another reason is, that the woods on the borders of almost every settlement have been destroyed less or more by fire; this renders them as described above, a very unpleasant object indeed. But I must say, the woods here in their most perfect state are far from posses-

sing any thing like the beauty of those in Britain.— Their bark is runkled, dry, and weather-beaten, like that of a tree several years dead, (a defect which is probably caused by the severe frost in winter;) nor do their branches beautifully expand into that luxuriant covering of foliage so common at home, and, from their great height, they are no sooner broke into with clearances, than the wind is overturning some of them by the roots, breaking others by the middle, and rendering them an object still more unpleasant and revolting. But after all I have said, I may end as I began, that to have a correct notion of the woods here, you must come and see them.

I am, &c.

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## LETTER FOURTH.

CHARLOTTE TOWN, Nov. 29th, 1820.

*Reverend and Dear Sir,*

I intended in my last to have added a few remarks upon the general appearance of the Island, but the description of the woods filled up all my paper. But, as I have lately procured a map of it, which I have not yet had time to examine properly, and being every day getting better acquainted with the Island personally, I shall not enter upon that subject, but proceed to one to which I am at present better enabled to do justice, namely, the manner of cutting the wood and clearing the land here.

New settlers (who should always be here as early in the spring as possible) begin to cut down the wood where they intend to erect their first house. As the trees are cut the branches are to be lopped off, and the trunks cut into lengths of 12 or 14 feet. This operation they call junking them; if they are not junked before fire is applied, they are much worse to junk afterwards. Thus, when the space intended

to be cleared is cut down, junked, and all lying in a promiscuous manner over the whole surface, fire is applied to it in as dry and windy a day as can be selected, and if the fire runs well, the greater part of the small branches will be consumed, but the trunks will only be scorched. These are next rolled together and made up in piles, lying flat upon the ground; then the remaining small branches are gathered up and thrown upon the heavier wood, to help it to kindle for burning a second time. The stronger part of the family then go on to make up more piles, while the weaker part set fire to those which are thus prepared. In this way they proceed till the whole of what was cut down is gone over; then when the piles go out they are kindled again, and those that continue to burn are thrust closer together, till all is consumed. I must say this is a piece of work of the most dirty and disagreeable nature, and when the wood is heavy, as tiresome as any I have seen in America. I have often passed by the settlers when engaged in this employment, and what with smoke, sweat, and the dust of the burnt wood, their faces were little fairer than those of the negroes in the West Indies, while their clothes were much the same as if they had been dragged up a sooty chimney. After the wood is all burnt, the stumps are left standing about two feet high, scorched black with the first burning, like so many blocks of a blacksmith's anvil. The people then begin planting their potatoes, which is done in the following manner;—with their hoes they scratch or rake a little of the earth to one side, about eight inches square, and after raking a little of the ashes lying upon the surface into this groove, they place four cuttings of seed potatoes in it in a square form, and then cover them up with earth till it resembles a small mole-hill, and still repeating the same operation they go on putting all their seed into the ground by four at a time, and when the space cleared is all planted it looks as if it were all covered with small mole-hills. And this is the only labour be-

sowed upon the potatoes till they are ready for raising. But when the time for planting arrives, man, wife, children, and all that can handle a hoe, must work, as the season is short; and if the crop is not got in to a sufficient extent, want may stare them in the face, when a supply will be difficult to procure, and when there will be nothing in their pocket to pay for it.— This work of planting with the hoe is very laborious, for there are always a great number of small roots spread over the surface, which they have to cut to pieces with their hoes, otherwise they could not plant it at all. They are also much hurried by reason of the wood, which will not burn early in the season, and which, as well as the land, is rendered extremely damp by the melting of the snow. But there is one thing much in their favour; the heat that the fire leaves in the ground is so great, or some other cause supervenes, to hurry vegetation so rapidly, that they can plant potatoes a great deal later on this new burnt land than on any other, and still have a good crop. I have been well assured of their planting upon this kind of land as late as the 12th of July, and after all have little to complain of. I may observe, that when the fire runs well the first time it is put to the wood, not only a great deal of leaves and rubbish are burnt, but also a part of the surface soil. This enriches the land greatly, and their first crop, as well as the succeeding ones, are, in this case, very luxuriant. I have been credibly informed, that the increase has been, in favourable seasons, from twenty-five to upwards of thirty-fold; but the average may be taken from fifteen to twenty. To proceed, however, after a crop of potatoes has been taken next year, the same ground is sown with wheat and timothy grass seed. This crop is generally hoed in or harrowed with a harrow in the form of the letter A, with the point foremost; after this, if the land is of a good quality, and has been well burnt, they can mow it several years among the stumps, but generally it will not bear to be mowed till the stumps are suffi-

ciently rotten for stumping. For, if it had been growing with beech it will require five years at the shortest, but more commonly six or seven; but in cases where there has been a mixture of hard wood, it will require more; and some of the hard wood, unless cut at a particular season, so far from rotting, springs again at the root, and being thus kept alive, must be dug out at last with nearly as much difficulty as at the first.

As I hinted above, the greater part of the land here must be turned to pasture, before it can be stumped, and some of it is only fit for pasture all the time, and often is not even good for this purpose, for the cradle-hills I spoke of, where they are high (they are not equally high everywhere), cause all the good earth to fall down into the hollow parts, and the higher parts produce nothing but moss or sorrel.—But, though none of it should produce any grass worth naming, it must remain in this state till it can be stumped or partly so. When only a part of the stumps are got out, a kind of ploughing is made among them the preceding fall, and next spring it is ploughed again and sown with oats; after the oats are reaped, the remaining stumps are taken out, and it is ploughed in the fall, and next spring potatoes set with dung upon it; and the following year it is sown with wheat and timothy grass seeds, and laid down for upland hay, as they call it; then it is mown year after year, as I said before, for perhaps eight or nine years without any additional manure whatever. This is the whole history of clearing the land upon this Island.

I must now describe their method of taking out the stumps. Poor settlers, who have no oxen, have to dig round them with what they call grubbing hoes, and cut some of the roots upon one side, and then by inserting a lever below, they raise them out; but those that have oxen put a chain or rope round the stumps, which are generally two feet high, and after the roots are cut upon one side, the oxen will pull

them out. New settlers, as I have already mentioned, begin to cut down the wood where they intend to erect their first house; this step is absolutely necessary to ensure the safety of the dwelling, and place it beyond the reach of the flames that may arise from the burning of the woods, but their houses are often removed farther back after they have cleared more land, and can do so with safety. I may observe, that if settlers land in time, they may have wood cut, and a considerable quantity of potatoes planted the same season; but some are too late in coming, and others cannot fix upon a farm till the season for planting potatoes is quite over. Many pounds will not make up the loss which this untoward circumstance occasions to a large family. By coming late in the season, emigrants are also prevented from getting a house erected upon their own farm for their lodging in over the winter, and in that case they may be at much expense for a house badly finished, or very burdensome to a friend for their accommodation. But another evil no less ruinous is, when a man with his family has landed in time for attending to all these things, and yet who, after casting his eyes upon a scene altogether new to him, is so astonished at the unpromising appearance of the country, that his judgment is confounded, his resolution fails him, and after vainly wishing that it were in his power to return to his native country, he becomes so wavering and dissatisfied that he cannot bring his mind to fix upon any one spot he has yet seen, but always hopes to find a place better suited to his wants and inclination. Encouraged by this delusive hope, he is led to wander over the Island, perhaps spending in taverns and travelling, his little stock of cash, which might have procured himself and family many necessaries, till their new farm had become more productive, whilst his family are doing nothing but eating up the remainder of their provisions or money till the winter comes on; and before it is over, perhaps some of their clothing must be bartered for more, and next spring he has

to enter upon a farm no better than one he might have entered to the week he landed. Every thing is therefore now to do, and nothing to do it with, unless by contracting debt, which must hang like a mill-stone about his neck many years. This is not an imaginary picture I have been drawing, but one which I have seen verified with my own eyes; for to hesitate in buckling to a farm as quickly as possible after landing, is, on the part of the emigrant, to waste his small remaining substance in a fruitless pursuit.— But you will now, I suppose, be ready to put the question, “Are all situations upon the Island so exactly of the same value and convenience that no preference need be given to one before another?” I will not altogether affirm this. Partial conveniences or inconveniences may be attached to certain local situations, but, upon the whole, I consider the difference between one situation and another here so trifling, that I would not esteem it prudent to waste five pounds in making a choice. Front lands have been always most prized by the first settlers; these affording them several privileges, such as conveniency for fishing, which, before the production of grain, or mills to grind it, constituted a great part of the living of the inhabitants; ready conveyance by water when there were no roads cut thro’ the woods; an open free prospect,—the privilege of the marshes near them for hay to their cattle which generally lie upon the shores or the banks of rivers or bays; these, with the pleasures of society, were the inducements that led them at first to choose front lands, but these are now nearly all occupied, except upon the west end of the Island, unless it be land that is swampy and not of good quality. A comparative view of the different situations here as to local advantages, may fall in my way afterwards; and all I shall observe farther at present is, that the best land upon the whole Island is yet unoccupied. The more we go back into the woods the land is deeper, richer in the soil, and easier cleared; and now that the roads are opening everywhere, those

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who have the resolution first to take a farm in the very middle of the greatest wood they can find, provided a road leads through it, will have the choice of their situation, get their land cheaper to rent or to purchase, and will soon have plenty of neighbours; and I would give it as my best advice, that a man had better settle in any part near to where he lands (for it is very expensive here to remove a family and luggage either by land or water to any distance), provided he keep out of a swamp, and has plenty of hard wood upon his farm for burning, long-ers for fencing with, and water convenient for his cattle in winter, than wander here and there, wasting his little substance in search of what cannot be found upon the Island.

I am, Sir, &c.

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## LETTER FIFTH.

CHARLOTTE TOWN, JULY 30th, 1821.

*Reverend and Dear Sir,*

In my last I promised at some future time to give you a more particular description of this Island. I have now travelled over the greater part of it on both the southern and northern shores, from East Point as far west as Bedeque, on the one side, and Malpeque, or Prince Town, on the other. I have also crossed over the Island from the one shore to the other at four different parts, and traversed much of it several times over; and with the help of a good map before me, I shall proceed to make you and the reader acquainted with the situation, extent, general appearance, as well as the particular places worth mentioning upon the Island. It lies near the southern boundaries of the Gulph of St Laurence, between 46 and 47 degrees north latitude, and 61 and 64 west longitude, surrounded by that gulph on all sides, with Newfoundland to the north-east, Cape Breton on

the east, Nova Scotia on the south, New Brunswick and Miramichi to the west, and the Bay of Chaleur and Lower Canada to the north-west. It is, I believe, more than a hundred and forty miles long, from Cape Wolfe on the west and east point, but the line would be a little curved taken in this direction. If measured in a direct line from Cape Wolfe, along the middle of the Island, to where it would run out at the Bay of Fortune, it will be 120 miles, or more. The average breadth may be about 30 miles; but in this respect it is very irregular, as you will hear afterwards. After the Island was taken by the British, I believe in the year 1758, it was divided into lots of about 20,000 acres each, and given by Government in lots, or half lots, to meritorious officers in the army and navy. The soil of the whole Island has been thrown up by water; it is therefore very fine, and nearly all of one kind and quality, and is laid upon a bottom of red soft freestone, which in some parts on the shores rises no higher than the level of the sea, and in other parts not so high. But where it does rise to a considerable height on the shores, it is so soft and loose in its contexture, that the frost and tide are wasting it in exposed situations considerably. I have not observed the soil less than four feet deep in the banks round the shores, and in many parts it is twelve or fifteen; and in some inland parts, where wells have been dug, it has been found fully as deep. The land is in general low and level, but there is little of it a dead level, except the marshes on the shores, or in the interior. These are all moss, and where the salt water does not come near them, I believe they will furnish excellent peat or turf for the fire, when the wood is all burnt. I said the land is in general low, yet there are gentle rising grounds, but no high hills, at least none deserving the name of mountains. I have observed none of it so steep as to render ploughing inconvenient, both up bank as well as down. From this you will learn that the whole Island might be cultivated if the wood were destroy-

ed, except the marshes, and I believe even some of these only require draining to render them fruitful; for the land is generally dry, with no rock near the surface, and in few parts even loose stones.

I must next point out the general shape or form of the Island, and for want of a real map, I must have recourse to an ideal one. Allow me then to compare it to a stocking-maker's leg-board, which it resembles very much; only you must suppose a piece cut from the leg-board, beginning at the hough, and running up in a slanting direction to the other side above the knee. This will make the leg-board, instead of being broadest at the upper end, to terminate in a long tapering point above the knee; and next suppose the board bent a little inwards on the shin, and laid down with this side of the board to the north, a little inclined to the north-east, with the upper end or small point above the knee to the east, and the foot of it to the north west.—I say the leg-board dressed up in this manner, and laid down as directed, will give no very inadequate representation of the form of the Island, and the posture in which it lies, surrounded with the Gulph on all sides; but lying so near to the main land of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, as to be easily seen from its southern shore all round. You will, by keeping this figure in your mind, be able in some measure to trace my course as I proceed round the shores, pointing out the rivers, bays, &c. I shall begin at the narrow point above the knee in the figure represented above, called on the Island East Point. After leaving this point a little way on the south-east side of the Island, the sea has receded from the land a good way where a large sand ridge is thrown up, and a long lake is formed upon the back of it, where the tide comes and goes by an entrance a considerable way to the south-west. This is called East Lake. Another lake to the west of this, supplied with the flowing tide at the same inlet, is called the West Lake. The land bordering on

these lakes is good, and lately settled from Perthshire. The scenery is beautiful and romantic, but it lies far from market; the roads are ill opened up, and there is no good harbour for shipping. After we leave these lakes, the land is thinly settled, and the woods at present much infested with mice; but when the lands get more cleared, this evil will be less prevalent. The next place we arrive at is called Colville Bay upon the map, but Souris, or Mice, by the French, who are the settlers here. The next bay to this is Rollo Bay, also settled with French. The next is Fortune Bay, a beautiful old settlement, with a good deal of clear land on it, and a number of schooners belonging to it that trade to Newfoundland, Halifax, &c. There are several other bays along the coast here, which I did not visit, called Eglinton Cove, Howe Bay, Spry Cove, and Boughton Bay and River (or Grand River). They are mostly settled with Roman Catholics. There is excellent herring fishing in the month of May here, and the people attend from considerable distances with their nets to catch them. The next place we come to is Cardigan Bay, or Three Rivers. This is the best harbour upon the Island. It has the greatest depth of water, easiest of entrance, the best shelter, earliest open in the spring, and latest in shutting in the fall or winter. One of the three principal towns projected by Government, called George Town, is intended to stand here; but no man of property and enterprise has yet pitched his tent here so as to give the town and trade of the port a beginning, although it is certainly the most eligible situation upon the Island. A small house or two is all that it can yet boast of. To the west of this about twelve miles, we come to Murray Harbour, which may be entered, it is said, by vessels of nearly 300 tons burthen at high water. This is a very pleasant, thriving, and comfortable settlement.

We have now arrived at the broadest part of the Island, so that from the shore a little west from

Murray Harbour, at a place called White Sands, across the Island to Savage Harbour on the north shore, it is about thirty-five miles wide, or more; and taking the leg-board as our only help to illustration, we are now at the end of the slant cut from above the knee to the hough. From White Sands to Wood Islands, the next place we arrive at, there are several miles of excellent front land unsettled. Passing Wood Islands, we come to Belle Creek, Flat River, Jenyns River, or Pinnet. After passing this we come to a point of land that runs out into the Gulph in a westerly direction, called Point Prim. On the north side of this, a large bay called Orwell Bay, runs into the land a long way. On the south side of it lies the settlement of Belfast; the settlers Highlanders, and mostly Protestants. With this Bay, Pownal, and Hillsborough Bay, all connected, the Island is much cut up where the calf of the leg should have been. At the head of Hillsborough Bay we enter the river of the same name, and the harbour of Charlotte Town. The tide flows up this river in a north-easterly direction for nearly twenty-four miles. On the north-west side of this river, about four miles above its junction with the bay of the same name, stands the beautiful town of Charlotte Town, with its streets all regularly laid out. The principal streets (running from the river side) are eighty, and the cross streets forty feet in breadth. There is a large square in the middle of the town, where the Court-house, the High Church, and Market House stand, with plenty of open ground for drilling the militia, executions, &c. The houses are all of wood, and those that are well done up and painted, look very elegant, though neither warm nor durable. Brick would be much better to build with, and this they might have in abundance, and of the best quality, were some of the unemployed brick-makers to come from Britain to make them at reasonable prices; for there is only one brick-maker upon the Island, and he must inevitably sell high.

Below Charlotte Town, two rivers empty themselves into the Hillsborough; the one called York, or North River, the other Elliot, or West River. As we pass out at the harbour's mouth along shore towards the west, there are few settlers till we come to a place called Disable; then to Crappo, where small vessels load with timber. These are both new settlements, but likely to improve rapidly, as the proprietor is said to be liberal, and the agent active, and anxious to make great improvements. A little to the west of this is Tryon River, a very small river, but the prettiest settlement upon the Island. There are excellent marshes on each side of it a long way. The clearances are large and regular, the arable land rising gently behind the marshes, and both dry and convenient for all the purposes of agriculture. I have now got so far west as to be a little below the calf of the leg, referring to my old method of illustration; and the Island is beginning to narrow much as we proceed on to Cumberland Cove, Augustine Cove, Cape Traverse, and Seven Mile Bay. A little further to the west, a large bay, called Halifax Bay, intersects the Island on the southern side, and Richmond Bay on the north, so that I believe the Island is not more than four or five miles in breadth between the head of the one bay and that of the other. The head of this bay is divided into two branches, one of which is called Dunk River; the other, Wilmot Cove. Around these lies Bedeque, which is truly an excellent well cleared settlement. The settlers, however, are both ignorant and indolent farmers, and much of the land is running wild and barren under their management. Bedeque has a good harbour for shipping. A little to the west of this the land juts out at what is called Cape Egmont, and recedes at a cove beyond it of the same name, which I may say, lies just above the heel: West Cape half way down it, and Cape Wolf at the bottom. But it is all unsettled here, as it is all round the west end of the Island, or sole of the foot; but at the top of the foot, or North Cape, I have been told that there

is a farm under such good management, that it is the most productive of any in the Island. From this the land is all unsettled till we come to Cascumpeque, or Holland Bay. This is at the instep of the foot.— Here are great ranges of sand hills along the shore, which are thrown up to a great height in many places on the northern side of the Island. We next come to Richmond Bay, which is very large and spacious, with good anchoring for ships of heavy burthen; but the deep water is often far from the shore. On the west side of this bay there is a good settlement on lots 13, 14, and 16. On the eastern side of this bay lies Malpesque, or Prince Town, intended as the third county town on the Island, though not a single house of it has hitherto been built. The lands round it were long since settled, and the firewood is nearly all destroyed, and far to haul. To the eastward, we have a long track of shore without any harbour till we arrive at New London, where schooners can enter. The land here is good, and there are large clearances. A little way from this we come to Great Rastico, or Harris Bay, which is said to admit only small fishing schooners. The next settlements are Brackly Point, and Little Rastico, or Cove Head, which are old and good clearances, though the harbour will admit only small schooners. To the east of this a little way, we come to Tracady, or Bedford Bay. This is also an old settlement, mostly peopled with Roman Catholics. No large vessels can enter here, and the bay runs so far inland as to reach within three or four miles of Hillsborough River, which empties itself below Charlotte Town on the south side of the Island. The next place is Savage Harbour, which is of little importance in any respect whatever.

We have now arrived at the broadest part of the Island on the northern shore; and to refer to the old figure, we are just below the knee. A little to the east we come to the bottom of St Peter's Bay, which runs in a slanting easterly direction about

ten miles into the country. This was the principal sea-port at the time the French were masters of the Island; but the entrance has now become shallow and difficult, and will only admit small craft. From the entrance of this bay to Surveyor's Inlet, or North Lake, near East Point, a distance of 35 or 40 miles, there is no place of shelter for vessels of any kind whatever. The shore is settled all the way, and the land cleared a considerable way back. The settlers are Highlanders, from Long Island, and Roman Catholics. They raise large and good crops here, having plenty of kelp driven in upon the shore to manure the land with, but their knowledge of agriculture is very deficient. At Surveyor's Inlet nature has provided no shelter for vessels of any kind, but if such could be provided by art, it would be of the greatest advantage to this quarter of the Island, which has no market near it in the interior, and no harbour to load their produce for exportation.

I have now completed my rout round the whole Island, for this inlet is very near to East Point, from whence I set out in my excursive tour round its shores. I am afraid it will appear very dry and uninteresting, I had to condense it so much; but it may be useful to intending emigrants, in enabling them to take their passage to the right port, when they have previously fixed upon the spot where they intend to settle. To be well advised in this point may save much expense and trouble after landing upon the Island.—I am, Sir, &c.

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LETTER SIXTH.

CHARLOTTE TOWN, SEPT. 13th 1821.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

In my last I dragged you round the whole Island, and though you had only in imagination to go over the ground which cost me many a tiresome and soli-

tary step, yet I had to hurry on so fast, and to allow so little time for observation, that I am afraid it would appear to you like travelling in a stage coach with the windows darkened; for however delightful the scenery might be along the road on which you are travelling; you could only, in that case, obtain a single peep at the stage, while the horses were changing. This brings to my recollection the subject of roads, and the process of making them; and I shall therefore proceed to the discussion of that subject at present. — When a new road is to be opened here, a survey is made by one well acquainted with the neighbourhood; the trees are then marked with chips along the track: this they call blazing them. The next process is to cut down as many trees as to open a way to ride or walk in. The next step is to cut down as many more, (rooting out the stumps,) as to allow a carryall or sledge to pass. Next, to level the cradle-hills; and lastly, to cast up the earth like a new formed road in Scotland. To cast up the soil from the rib is all that is needful to complete a road here; no better mettle can be got any where, and no better is generally needful. There is no spouty ground here, and if any of it is swampy and wet, they cut down small soft wood trees, and lay across the bottom as close as one can lie at the side of another, and by casting earth from the sides of the road upon these, make it both firm and durable; and from the general dryness of both the soil and the atmosphere, I never saw a road that had been made up in this manner a bad one, except, perhaps, for a week or two, when the snow and frost are melting in the spring, and a few weeks more before their return in the winter. During this period the roads are all good, and a substantial bridge covers all the water.

Having said what I think needful on the subject of road-making, allow me next to point out the principal roads upon the Island. Charlotte Town being the only town yet built, the seat of government, and centre of trade, I shall trace them all as they diverge

from this point to every corner of the Island. The one that claims my attention first is the road to St. Peter's. This is the most public and best finished road upon the Island. When it leaves town it is wide and spacious, and has some good earthen dykes and ornamental wooden paling on each side of it, but no quick hedges. A little way from town, on the north-west side, the Attorney General's house (a very neat commodious building) stands upon a fine rising ground, with several beautiful well cultivated inclosures around it. Other subdivided Farms, under decent management, are to be seen as we pass on to Mr Wright's mills. Here is a flour, oat, and barley mill, threshing machine, brewery, and distillery.— When we arrive at Five Mile House, a road takes off on the left to Cove Head, which lies on the northern shore. As we proceed along the main road, occasional views on the right are obtained of the majestic river of Hillsborough, with spacious marshes along each of its banks; at one time forming a broad and lengthened sheet of water, with excellent arable land on both sides, rising with sufficient acclivity to give security to the mind, without having recourse to the decree of the Almighty, that its swelling waves would there be stayed. But passing along, and before another view is obtained, the scene is changed as if by enchantment; and what a few hours ago was one extended sheet of water, is now a beautiful green meadow, with a modest stream intersecting the middle of it. At the proper season, this meadow, by and bye, is all studded with cocks or ricks of hay, in such multitudes, and spread so far and wide, within the compass of one glance, that perhaps the eye of man cannot be gratified with a view so captivating as this any where else. Whilst this picturesque scene was occasionally bursting upon my sight, with the beautiful rising grounds and well cleared farms on the opposite bank of the river, my feet had trode over more than twenty miles. Delighted with these occasional views, I almost forgot the fatigue of travelling; and also to no-

time that a road had led off on the left to Tracadie, a few miles backwards. The main road then bending a little to the left, we lose sight of the beautiful Hillsborough, and enter the barrens of St. Peter. But all this way the road is good, and any vehicle may pass it without much danger or difficulty. When we reach St. Peter's the road then turns a little to the right, along the south side of St Peter's Bay, passing over three separate rivers on wooden bridges, one of which is 145 yards long. At the head of the Bay it crosses the stream upon another bridge of the same materials, and then separates; the one branch to the right crosses over the Island by Five Houses to the Bay of Fortune; the other on the left to the northern shore, along which it winds its way to the East Point.

Another great road leaves Charlotte Town, called the Malpeque road. It proceeds at first in a northerly direction till it crosses the head of the north river, and then more westerly. Roads lead off from this on the right to Great Rastico and New London, and on the left to Tryon and Bedeque. A few years ago this road was forty miles long through continued woods, without a house to shelter or refresh the weary traveller. It is now settling fast, and several houses are opened, furnishing accommodation for both man and horse. Another road from town leads across the North River in a westerly direction, passes on by the head of West River, Dissable, Crappo, and Tryon; one branch then on the right penetrates through 12 miles of wood, to Bedeque, which is now rapidly settling; and the other branch on the left to Cape Traverse and Seven Mile Bay. A fourth road from town leads across Hillsborough river in a regular ferry, and proceeding in an easterly direction through lot 48 and part of 49, a branch takes off on the right by Cherry Valley, across Orwel Bay, to Belfast, Flat River, and Wood Islands. The main road passing through the remainder of lot 49, to the head of Vernon River, divides, one branch on the right; leads to Murray Harbour, through seventeen miles of wood,

without a house. Here are crystal brooks that never freeze, with the best land along their banks upon the Island. The other branch on the left leads through eleven miles of wood, to George Town or Three Rivers. There is excellent land in the middle of this wood, and settlers are beginning to pitch their tents upon it. Some of the roads I have been tracing, are not even well opened and levelled, and till once the trees are cut down on each side to a considerable distance, every blast of wind is in danger of filling them with wind falls, as they call them, which greatly obstruct the traveller. But time will improve them, as every man, from the age of 16 to 60, has to work three days in the year, repairing them.

Allow me now to take a more particular view of their farms, their stock, crop, and method of management. Their farms are generally 100 acres, English measure, half a quarter of a mile broad, and a mile and a quarter long. They are laid out narrow, to get as many farms upon the shores or sides of rivers as possible. This will be found in the end an inconvenient form; but in the outset it does well enough, as every new settler is anxious to have a piece of his front wholly cleared as early as possible, in order to see his neighbour's house, and to be near enough to visit him occasionally. And perhaps the first generation, according to the progress many of the settlers have made, will not clear more than 20 or 30 acres all their life; and the distant end of the farm is carefully kept for firewood for future generations. And thus rent is paid for lands yearly, from which no particular advantage will be derived perhaps for sixty years to come. But their want of steady industrious habits, particularly among the youth born upon the Island; stout horses or oxen to work with; good implements of agriculture; lime easily procured; knowledge how to make and preserve their dung; good roads, and remunerating prices for agricultural produce, added to the delight they take in fishing and eating fish; their general poverty and ignorance in

managing a clear farm—all these, and many other things, contribute to make them bad farmers; and where they have large clear farms, they are letting much of the land run entirely wild and barren. They know not how to drill potatoes and turnips, nor do they even seem to consider that ploughing these frequently between the furrows, both kills the weeds and enriches the soil. They breed little dung by having their land poor, as well as by keeping too many cattle; and even the little they have, is greatly injured by exposure to the frost in winter. All the dung of their cattle should be kept in what they call a green house, or close shed, at the back of the byre; or in a cellar below the cattle. Compost dunghills and burnt clay, are what they never heard of; and their new-stumped land, which has so much need of summer fallowing to mix the soil, and breed a fermentation in it, they often sow after once ploughing, but the crop is frequently scarce worth reaping. New-stumped land, however much it was enriched by the first burning of the wood upon it, is always rendered poor before it is fit for stumping; and where the cradle hills are high, the good soil, by the first ploughing in the hollow parts, is greatly covered up; and the bad soil, from the heart of the cradle hills, is thrown upon the top. This will shew the necessity both of frequent and pretty deep ploughing. The new-cleared land here will not yield a good crop without dung; neither will it do with too much. In the latter case, the straw rises soft and *cashy*, and the grain lodges and rots before it is ripe. But the great secret of managing the land, I apprehend, will be to keep it clean, and change the crop as frequently as possible. The extent of crop by the acre I cannot accurately define; all the statements I received, referred to the quantity of seed sown, and crop reaped. Mr McDonald, Three Rivers, told me, and I had the testimony of his servant to the same fact, that he sowed one bushel and three quarters, Winchester measure, of barley, or four rowed beer, and had a re-

turn of forty-seven and a half. Another man upon the Covehead Road, whose name I forgot to mark, told me, that he sowed one bushel and a half of oats upon new burnt ground, and had thirty in return, although it was sown so late as the 20th June. I saw barley (bear) at Bedeque, and in several other parts, which the people said they had no doubt would yield twenty fold. I also saw twenty bushels of wheat at Three Rivers, which the owner told me he had in return from the sowing of one; and Mr Gavin Kerr, Cape Traverse, told me, 14 seeds of wheat was reckoned an average crop. Their crops do not rise in general so bulky in the straw as in Scotland, but in ordinary seasons the grain is fully as good in quality, and in quantity more abundant. On the borders of fresh water lakes, and where the air has not free circulation, a frosty dew sometimes damages the crop; but when the country is better opened up, this evil will, in a great measure, be removed. There is a small weed which they call yar, (spirie) which greatly damages the crops; on some lands, when once it gets into the ground, there is no method yet discovered of clearing it away. When the seed ripens, it will lie under ground, I have heard, for twenty years, and vegetate as fresh as ever when the land is again plowed up. I have seen wheat damaged so much by it, as not to be more than a fourth of an average crop. But if they were to plough, instead of harrowing their seed wheat into old potatoe land, with a very light narrow furrow, and after the yar rises, give it a light harrowing, or run over it with a hoe; this, which would not hurt the wheat at all, would destroy the first growth of yar, and the shade of the grain would keep it down afterwards. Grey peas yield a most abundant crop; but beans degenerate in a few years in size greatly. Carrots thrive well, and cabbages are raised from the seed in May, and in the fall they arrive at great perfection; that is, if the land was rich on which they were planted. Cucumbers will thrive well upon good ground, among the potatoes, in the open fields. No

sooner is any kind of dung or ashes laid upon the land, than it springs up of white clover. This rises year after year, as long as there is any strength in the soil; but red clover has been found not only to yield an excellent crop of hay, but also to enrich the land greatly; but they have never as yet had a sufficient quantity imported. If rye-grass would stand the winter, it would certainly be a great acquisition; but it has not hitherto had a fair trial. Timothy is the only grass they have upon the Island, and it is very unsuitable, as it impoverishes the land much when cut for hay, and is not good for pasture. I must observe that the land here answers for any kind of crop, better than for pasture; whatever crop covers the soil early in the season, so as to keep it from drought, is sure to succeed well. But pasture, if it is eaten bare, is in danger of being burnt up; and the soil being of a sandy nature, in that case becomes proportionally barren; and when allowed to grow rank, it soon shoots and gets so wiry and hard, that the cattle will not eat it. But there is little clear land occupied for pasture as yet upon the Island. The Islanders have no right method of raising turnips, although I was told by a Dumfries-shire man, he had raised that species of crop in great perfection. They have no green feeding for their cattle in winter, for they never think of giving them a *service* of potatoes; and the swine are so poorly fed, that if they get hold of a fowl they will eat it alive. I was even told of a man who had a weak cow eaten to death at the stake by the pigs. From the poor way in which their cattle are fed during winter, some of them die of weakness, or when driven out to the woods in this state, they are more in danger of getting mired, as well as of falling a prey to the wild beasts. This, and the great travel they have in the woods, cause them to give very little milk, although it is said to yield a good return of butter. Their sheep, though very healthy and prolific, sometimes fall a prey to foxes and wild cats; as to the number they keep, I

cannot speak with any thing like certainty. New settlers, unless they get marsh hay along with their farms at first, get slowly on in keeping stock. With many settlers the breadth of land they have in crop is very small. A man told me who had been a settler here since the first American war, that he never had more white crop than two acres, with other two in potatoes; all his other clear ground was kept for upland hay, and mown perhaps eight or ten years till it was entirely done out. What he intended to break up for potatoes yearly, he got the one half manured with his cattle lying upon it at night, in the summer; and the other half with their dung in winter. He cross-ploughed these two acres in the fall, previous to making it potatoes next year; and thus one acre was all he could manure with the dung of two horses, five or six cows, some young cattle, and perhaps twenty sheep, during the whole winter; and they will never succeed better till they learn to rot down more of their white fodder to dung, and preserve it better from the frost in winter.— Yet this old gentleman kept his table better furnished with good wheaten bread, from the produce of these two acres, than almost any other settler I found upon the Island. The first settlers after the British got possession of the Island, were mostly from the Highlands, or refugees from the United States.— The former knew nothing about cultivating land, the comforts of a good house, or a well furnished table; and having procured plenty of fish, potatoes, and rum, they neither wished nor sought for more. The latter were only acquainted with the culture of wheat, reckoning oats and barley food only for pigs and horses; hence the Island was designated a wheat country, and the mills were all prepared for grinding wheat, and nothing else. Yet I must affirm that wheat, at least summer wheat, is the most unproductive crop upon the Island, every thing considered.— It yields the least substantial food for a family, is more impoverishing for the land, while the straw con-

stitutes the most unnutritive food for cattle. But better views are beginning to be entertained and adopted, and oat and barley mills are loudly called for everywhere; and I may assert, *without the fear of contradiction*, that whenever the Dumfries-shire mode of agriculture; of living, of feeding cattle and pigs, is adopted, there will be nothing to hinder the settlers from enjoying all those comforts as to food, which a Scotch farmer, or his family, wished or looked for forty or fifty years ago. I mean a breakfast and supper of good oatmeal, a dinner of potatoes and pork, or beef and mutton, with potatoes and barley soup. Their oats, barley, and potatoes, are superior in their quality to almost any in Scotland. They might also have a cask of good home-brewed beer to treat a friend with, and plenty of whisky of the same manufacture.

But methinks I hear you, or rather the women in Scotland, saying, when they read this, "What! is there no tea there!" I assure you it is as dear, and often dearer, than at home; that is, the right kind, and less to pay it with. But such as cannot be content with what is mentioned above, they should not come here. I must also observe, a few years must be spent in persevering industry before these plans can be fully adopted, or these comforts expected, after entering upon a new farm here.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER SEVENTH.

CHARLOTTE TOWN, OCT. 29, 1821.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

In my last I said all that was needful upon the article of food; but another question will, I suppose, be asked, "How shall we get clothing?" Those who bring a bad supply with them find this a very difficult matter for several years after settling here. They may have plenty of flax immediately, but wool

they cannot command. They must have upland hay to feed their sheep over winter before they can keep any, (and generally their stock is small at the first) and a piece of clear ground for them to pasture upon by day. A place of safety to shut them in at night would be of great advantage; for when they range in the woods both night and day, there are often some of them lost. But their flax and wool are both finer in the quality than at home, and the old settlers are wearing home-spun cloth, both men and women, and excellent cloth it is. A wife that is a good spinner, knitter, and sower is a great acquisition here. But how are the rents to be paid, will next be asked. This is a question very perplexing to many of the old settlers since the markets got so low, especially those who must pay in cash; and where they have been eating, but particularly drinking too fast, trifling away their time in idle visits, neglecting the improvement of their farms, and suffering themselves to get behind in their rents, they will not be able to relieve themselves, and their old clearances will be sold to pay the debt. I am sorry to say that it is likely too many openings of this kind will be furnished at present for half ruined British farmers, with stout sons, who have the resolution and prudence to emigrate in time, while they have something left to begin the world anew. But some of the proprietors will take produce or cattle in payment of rent, if they could get them; and the rents, in general, are only from £5, to £7 10s. per hundred acre, and it is only at the end of 6 or 7 years after entry that they arrive at so much. Indeed, in my opinion, they might with carefulness have as much butter and bacon, as would pay their rents even in cash without difficulty. And those who can take forty or fifty pounds with them, may purchase a hundred acres of land in the woods, free of all rent except two shillings per 100 acres yearly. But your next enquiry, I suppose, will be "What kind of winters have you?" This is what I know alarms Europeans most of all, but as I witness

sed the summer first, I shall proceed to describe the seasons in the order in which they passed before me.

In my second letter I made a few remarks upon the state of the weather in the end of May, when we landed at Murray Harbour. I said in substance that the sun shone bright and strong, the air was still and sultry, the grass and wheat appearing in variegated shades of green. The month of June passed on much the same; the nights were nearly as warm as the day, and the air becoming impregnated with the electric fluid, flashes of very vivid lightning were emitted from dusky clouds in various directions during the night. Occasionally the thunder rolled, and copious showers fell upon the thirsty ground in the most still and gentle manner. Every morning, when one took a view of the vegetable world, he was led to think a week had elapsed since he had viewed it before, every thing had made such amazing progress. But every good thing in the present chequered scene of mortal enjoyments has its concomitant evil closely connected, and constantly attending it in every clime under the sun. The heat that was so nourishing to the vegetable world, was at times collecting the thunder cloud, and causing the labourer at his work, and the traveller with his burthen, to sweat most profusely, and almost to faint with the feeblest exertions. Another evil also followed; insects of various tribes were brought to life and maturity, as if by a miracle; the blood thirsty mosquitoes sprung up in thousands, and attacking the face, the hands, and legs, if these are only covered with stockings, they manifest neither fear nor shame in prosecuting their designs of sucking the blood, and instilling their poison. Grasshoppers next made their appearance, some of them rattling their wings in the air, and others leaping before one so thick upon the road that it seemed all in motion. In a still evening they would join in millions, in singing a kind of chirley song like a flock of birds at home in winter; and in a calm dusky night, the fire flies will make their appearance, moving about

like twinkling stars, or brilliant sparks of fire.— In the minds of some new settlers these insects have excited no small surprise and terror, while they are in reality as inoffensive as the glow-worm in Scotland; some taking them for real sparks of fire, ready to set their houses in a flame, and others for evil spirits dancing about in the air. To defend the cattle from the flies in the night, they kindle a large fire in their fold or pen, and the black cattle and sheep will contend who to get nearest the smoke till their hair and wool are sometimes singed. Every night through the whole of summer, the *song* of the frogs is kept up in the woods. I called it formerly their *yell*; but as I heard no bird here sing so sweet in the night, I shall give them the dignified name of American Nightingales.

But to return. The month of July was much the same as June, warm, with a refreshing shower now and then. About the 20th, hay-making began; this, in ordinary seasons, is made with the half of the labour it requires in Scotland. About the first of August barley was cut, as I passed the settlement of Bedeque, and towards the middle of the month, reaping was pretty general till the middle or towards the end of September. After this they had plenty of time to dig their potatoes, and plough all their ley and stubble proper to be ploughed over winter. About the first of November drizzling rains came on, and then the cold winds began to blow with steady showers, occasional frosts, and now and then there was a thoroughly wet day. About the beginning of December, the frost became more serious; and about the 12th, the rivers were all nearly frozen over, and the wind being pretty high, it was very cold and penetrating. The snow now began to descend from scouling clouds, and was drifted about in the open ground most furiously. From this to the 1st of January 1821, some days were so stormy as to render it unsafe to travel far from home; the snow measuring at this time in the woods twenty-seven inches.

in depth. The atmosphere then became clear and calm, and the sun broke out in such majesty and strength, as if it had been summer in the heavens, whilst the land and water were covered every where with the cold and shining mantle of winter. On the calmest day the trees were cracking with the strength of the frost, and when the wind blew hard, they crashed as if a number had been falling together.

The cattle being fed in the house at this time, received nothing green and cooling, and were half famished upon dry wheat straw. In a calm day they will make their way into the woods in search of newly felled trees, in order to brouse upon their tops; and when they hear the sound of an axe, they hasten to the spot, and crowd so close around the man that is using it, that they are in danger of being killed by the falling of the trees. Indeed I was told that some have actually been killed, where they were not kept at a safe distance. I have seen a horse that was black at night, become a light gray before the morning, from its perspiration being frozen to a dry snow upon the top of the hair. I have also seen the cows, while waiting at the door of their house, with icicles at their beards the length of my finger, before they were housed. When the rays of the sun, reflected from the snow, became oppressive to the organs of vision, I have sometimes had to shut one of my eyes to ease them a little; and then I have found the hairs of my closed eye-lid frozen together, and have had to rub the ice off before it could be opened. Nay, one morning, after sleeping in a room all night without a fire, which was unceiled and very open, I found the steam of my breath congealed to hoar frost upon the blankets. The ear-laps are in danger of being frost bitten, if not covered over, and even sometimes the nose and cheeks. No work can be done out of doors without mitts or gloves upon the hands—not even bringing in a stick of wood to the fire. I saw two or three persons that had lost

their toes by riding on horseback, in a carryall, or in walking through the snow with wet feet.

I have now given you ample evidence of the strength of the frost. Allow me next to mention some things, in order to relieve your mind from the impressions which these statements, though true, are apt to produce. The frost here strikes upon the skin like fire, and causes a painful sensation like that felt upon the application of a blistering plaster, yet it does not go through the body or affect the lungs like the cold in Britain. The air is so pure, so dry, and bracing, that if the body is kept in motion, the skin covered, and the feet dry, there is little to be dreaded from the greatest frost here. Hundreds may meet at worship who have travelled through several miles of deep snow, and there will not be a cough heard amongst them. I travelled (or could have travelled) myself, the whole winter over, except about ten days, when the storm first set in, with often the meanest accommodations, a bed of straw, and frequently very few blankets—yet I can say with truth, I have not been so healthy at home during any winter for the last seven years. The settlers generally live long, and are exceedingly healthy. I saw a man of the name of Dingwall, who looked on while the battle of Culloden was fought, and who, when it was over, carried a musket home from the field with him. I met with another, a Frenchman, 93 years old, and born upon the Island, still following his trade of fishing.

But to return to the history of the winter. January passed over with clear dry frost, with now and then a skiffing snow shower. On the first week of February there was a gentle thaw, and in a few days a return of frost, with occasional falls of snow, and a thaw on the 18th. The weather was much the same till the 27th, when a fall of snow came on, the heaviest I had seen, while the wind towards the evening became so strong as to unroof several houses. It made the trees crack dreadfully as I passed along the St. Peter's road, and some actually fell so

near me that I had to keep a sharp look out to avoid accidents, and to remain in, or run to the safest place possible, when the gale raged in its utmost height; yet, after all, I have reason for thankfulness, I suffered no damage, though I travelled 13 miles that day.

March began with some slight snow-falls till the 10th, when it was a gentle thaw, and immediately a return to frost, after which it continued clear and frosty till the 21st, when the weather became so mild, and the sun shone so strong, as to melt the snow where it was light upon clear ground as well as to extract the frost from some grounds, so as to admit of a few ridges being ploughed on Montague River (Three Rivers) in the end of this month. But on the first of April, the frost became stronger, and some falls of snow coming on, put a stop to any more work of this kind till near the last week of the month. May was cold and showery, and June dry; but the warmth was not the nourishing heat of ordinary seasons, so that the upland hay did not look so well as usual, and indeed crops of all kinds were backward. The end of this month, and beginning of July, were warm, but rather droughty. About hay-making time, the rain became plentiful, and injured it much. August was still more distressingly wet, and their marsh hay was very badly got in; and September being no better, some of their grain was damaged. As the old settlers had been accustomed to no such weather, their want of skill and attention was the means of increasing their loss greatly, yet the crop on the whole was not a bad one. October was more moderate, with occasional showers till past the middle of the month, when a snow blast came on, and it looked much like a Scotch winter; but they expected fine weather afterwards. Here I must drop my history of the seasons, having taken my passage home in the brig *Carson*, of Newcastle, by way of Cork, in Ireland.

The first summer and harvest I was here, the

weather was what is common upon the Island. The winter set in earlier than usual, and the frost, if not the strongest, was the most continued of any that had ever been remembered; and as there had been little rain in the fall, and the thaws so few and gentle, many of their mills were idle in the winter for want of water. The next season throughout was the coldest and wettest ever known upon the Island.

Having finished my remarks upon the Island, and farm management here, allow me to make a few observations concerning the inhabitants themselves. And I must say, they are a motley mixture of almost all nations; yet various as the countries are from whence they have emigrated, and the customs prevalent in each of them, they are remarkably assimilated here into one form of living, dress, general conduct, and manners. Some of them were driven from their native homes by their misfortunes, others by their vices, and a few were allured by the flattering hopes of obtaining great possessions, riches, and splendour; but whatever was the cause of drawing or driving them hither, they are all here placed on a level, and taught one lesson, namely, *that if they wish to eat, they must work.* The unfortunate have here an opportunity, by patient industry and good economy, to attain to comparative comfort and independence. The profligate are urged by their wants to study sobriety and good conduct; and the dishonest have few opportunities to rob or steal. Every man, in fact, has it in his power, by pursuing the right plan, of regaining, in some measure, his lost reputation, his fortune, or his comforts; and as all have tasted less or more of the cup of adversity, there is a disposition to help one another here which is unknown in old countries. The people are hospitable in the extreme. Any man may travel from one end of the Island to the other, if he keeps out of taverns, without being one halfpenny of expense. If his entertainer's portion be sometimes scant, still it may be said he gives it with good will.

The children here thrive uncommonly in infancy, and in general are as big and stout at 12 months old, as those in Scotland at 15 or 16. As their bodies grow faster in youth than these, so the vigour and strength of their minds appear to grow in proportion. I was told by a teacher from Scotland, that the children here would learn as much at school in three months, as they would do at home in twelve. At the age of ten years they have the freedom of speech, and the fortitude and boldness, of a Scottish boy of twenty. This uncommon juvenile vigour of both body and mind, if not well tutored in early life, and kept under due subordination and moral restraint, is in danger of engendering, in the minds of youth, great levity, pride, haughtiness, and indeed every juvenile vice, but especially in such as are allowed to become their own masters, before they have got sufficient skill to hold the reins. A strong constitutional bias to these vices being very prevalent amongst the youth here, which is fostered greatly by the force of bad example around them, and often, on the part of their parents, there is a total deficiency of what can alone prove an antidote. I must assert, though I do it with grief, that this has blasted the fairest prospects of many a family here. Indeed, I may say, wherever Religion has not shed some of its benign and sacred influence, the prevailing features of their characters are those of levity and romphishness, or, according to the old adage, they have more cork than ballast. As the women here are uncommonly fruitful, and few children die in youth, the families of

* The reader will be pleased to observe, that the above is only the prevailing character of a part of the settlers. Such as left their native homes with little religious knowledge or practice, have, in many parts of the Island, as yet, small means of improving in either. But I could mention many families, even whole neighbourhoods or settlements, where genuine Christianity, with all its lovely train of attendants, are to be met with, in as high a state of perfection, if not even higher, than in any part of my native country I could condescend upon. But their want of good Ministers, religious books of all kinds, and pious school-masters, is very great.

course are many of them large; and as it often happens that the older branches marry at a very early period, and shift for themselves—that is, they take a new farm, and enter to it; the youngest son, in this case, falls to be possessor of his father's clear farm.

They are remarkably fond of riding, roving about, frolicking, and drinking rum. This last practice has been the ruin of many of the settlers, in a moral and financial point of view; and the present depression of the timber, grain, and cattle markets, I hope, will have a salutary effect in weaning them from many of their vices, which they formerly indulged in to excess. They are remarkably tall, and well made in their persons, though rather slender; and if the young girls were as blooming as they are stately and straight in their make, it would not be for the advantage of the Scotch girls that any number of them were imported there. But the heat of the sun in summer, and of their great fires in winter, bleach or darken the rosy hue of every cheek here. Their dress is mostly of home-spun duffles, stuffs, and druggets, dyed blue; and when they have a web to thicken, as they call it, they collect a dozen girls, or more, to perform the operation; and after it is over, the young men assemble, and a merry night is made of it, in drinking, dancing, and making up of matches. Their food consists commonly of wheaten bread, potatoes, cod-fish, herrings, and pork, with tea of some kind or other, or milk; and often the most of these articles, if they have them, are presented upon the table at once, or in succession at the same meal; but potatoes, and tea of some kind, or coffee (roasted grain) are essential articles at every meal, unless they can dispense with tea when they have barley, soup or milk to dinner; but the old settlers sometimes take tea in the evening, with only wheaten bread and butter. All the barley they use for soup must be pounded in a wooden trough. I must now close my correspondence with you from this island, till it

please providence to carry me to my own country,
my family, and my home.

I am, Sir, &c

LETTER EIGHTH.

MAXWELLTOWN, DEC. 20, 1821.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

Having, through the kindness and care of the Almighty, once more reached my native home and family, I have lost as little time as possible in taking up my pen, to add a few additional remarks and advices, needful to accompany my former letters, descriptive of Prince Edward Island. I may begin by observing, that no settlers are prized more and few so much, upon that Island, as settlers from Dumfriesshire, and the southern counties of Scotland. None excel them in agricultural knowledge, domestic economy, or steady industrious habits. None who can supply more of their own wants with their own hands, submit, without murmuring, to mean fare, or make greater exertions to increase their own comforts. I mean such of them as are sober and industrious; but I cannot say they are all so. I would rank the Highlanders as next to these in eligibility, and the well-behaved Irish next, if not equal to them; and the English as the most unsuitable of all. Every thing in that Island, and, I believe, in all America, is new in some measure to every European, go from where he may; but the change is greater, and more distressing to an English family, than to almost any other. Such of them as bring property with them, generally keep up their old mode of living till they are as poor as their neighbours, and then they are destitute in the extreme. Their women frequently can spin neither flax nor wool, and many of them are both unable and unwilling to take the hoe, and assist their husbands in planting.

the seed, and raising the crop. Some of the Irish are in want of steady moral habits, without which no country can make a man comfortable. Many of them, also, emigrate, not only poor, but ill provided with clothing, blankets, and every necessary. Indeed, the mistakes that have been made by multitudes of families in going out, have been many and great. A man, perhaps, who finds his wages not so good, or work not so plenty as usual at home, may have a friend or acquaintance in the Island, and this said friend, before he has been two months a settler there, or has had time to feel his own wants, or learn the nature of the country, and who are fit for it, but who is anxious to have his old acquaintance for a neighbour, sends home a flattering letter, encouraging him to emigrate, stating that it is a good poor man's country, that land is cheap, cropping good; in short, every thing encouraging. The man, perhaps with a bodily frame that had never been stout for work, with 5 or 6 children, all under 10 or 12 years of age, and the oldest of them daughters—few clothes and blankets—no money, no meal; I say, if any do emigrate to the Island, or any part of America, in such circumstances, they will not, they cannot succeed well there for sometime, nor have it in their power to return home again. If I were to mention the mistakes I have found of this kind, I might fill up all this letter; but the evil lies in their being advised to leave home, where they were able to earn a more comfortable subsistence than in a new country, at least for a number of years; also in their being unfit and unprovided for beginning the world anew, and in their not making proper allowances for the difficulties that must be encountered, and the privations that must be endured in a new country. I know a family that went to the Island in these circumstances, and before they were two years and a half there, I was told they were in £70 of debt. They will not be out of debt for ten years to come, with the

best exertions and economy in their power.* But having neither intention nor interest in deceiving, as I have no lands upon the Island to sell or let, nor a wish to advise one friend or countryman to emigrate there foolishly; but, on the contrary, to prevent all this in future, if possible; and as I have, in the most attentive manner, examined the circumstances of a great number of the settlers, so as to know who had a prospect of doing well, and who had not, I shall proceed to give advice upon the subject. I would advise none to go there, *even though their friends should invite them*, who can, by their earnings at home, obtain the common supports of life, though it should be in a homely way; nor any who are not strong for work, and well inclined to it, or some of their families; nor any tradesman, who is unwilling or unable to put his hand to farm work. Every tradesman in the country there, must have a farm, and do some work upon it, especially in the spring and harvest. Any man will be the better of having a trade, though almost none live wholly by trade there, except in Charlotte Town, and some have even left it and gone to farms in the country. House rents are so high, payments often awkward, and some tradesmen are so much given to drink, that they cannot prosper there. But to return. Farther, I would advise none to emigrate whose love of drinking blasted their prosperity at home, unless they find

* I have often cautioned the new settler to beware of getting into debt. It accumulates there beyond the conception of any stranger.—The settler, who has no supplies of his own, must procure credit, either from his land proprietor or his older neighbouring settlers, or both; in either case he will have to pay one third, or one half, dearer for the article, than if bought for ready money.—This is not all the evil; after an open account stands so long unsettled, according to the laws of the Island, it bears interest at 6 per cent. per annum, till paid. Therefore, all poor settlers ought to go to service, and their wives should be industrious at home, or they should try to get into a farm upon the half, as it is called, or they might take a school, till they are able to break up a new farm of their own, without going into debt, which must involve them in much misery for many years afterwards.

they can abandon this sordid gratification for the sake of future comfort; nor any who cannot contentedly dispense with some of the superfluities of food and dress, for the sake of obtaining a more permanent security, of enjoying the absolute necessities for both; nor any who cannot take a good stock of stout wearing clothes, shoes, and blankets, and as much oatmeal as will serve their families 12 months at least, for supper and breakfast. And lastly, all those who have not, in some measure felt or feared want, should not on any account emigrate there. You will, no doubt, be ready now to say, I advise none to go at all; this is not my intention, but only to prevent those from emigrating, who, I am persuaded, will not better their circumstances by doing so.

I shall therefore proceed to point out some characters, who, I conceive, might, after a little time, better their circumstances and prospects, by emigrating to the Island. Farmers, who, by the depression of markets and high rents, are going fast to ruin, having two or three sons near manhood—having no prospect before them but the parents going to live in a cot-house, and the children to service;—if such were to sell off a year before their Landlords would do it for them, and take with them all their farming utensils, with the necessities mentioned above,—if they should have little or no money when they land, they might get on without going into much debt, and might, in a few years, be pretty comfortable. Servant men, capable of managing a farm in the best style of modern agriculture; unmarried, or with light families; and well supplied with stout clothes, will meet with encouragement from the old settlers, as servants still; and may be able, in a few years, to purchase a farm of their own, rent free; and if their wives are good spinners and sewers, they will be able to make them great help, if they have not a numerous family. I have known men get from £20 to to £35 per year in cash currency, which is 2s. the pound under sterling value. Good servant maids

are much wanted; they get from £9 to £12 yearly: but I cannot advise them so freely to go there unprotected. Tradesmen, able bodied, with stout wives and few children, who find they cannot get on well at home, may also succeed pretty well there, with little money, if they are careful to keep out of debt. And I would say in the last place, that any man who is low in circumstances, having several sons, of good moral industrious habits, who sees nothing before his children but to continue at service while bodily strength lasts, and after that has failed them, to sink into a dependant situation in the decline of life. In these circumstances, I say I would take my own family (and I may yet take them) in hope of it turning out better for them than the prospect before them at home.

I knew a man upon the Island who came from Wales, though originally a Scotchman, who told me, if he had staid another year in his farm there, he must have lost all his property, and himself and family been forced to go to the parish workhouse. He was 63 years of age, had a young wife and several children, the oldest of them about 14 or 15. He went to the Island, bought a beautiful well cleared farm, with good houses, draw-well, rent free, for little more than £200, and he was happy, he said, in the choice he had made, for he would now leave the world with much less anxiety upon his mind about his family, than he must have felt for them in England; for he said, they might all now eat if they would work. I knew another man who went from the parish of Dalton, in this county, a Mr Archd. M'Murdo, who emigrated to the Island. He had received a letter from an old neighbour then upon the Island, encouraging him to go and be his neighbour still, and mentioning what necessaries to take with him. The wind of adversity, I believe, had begun to blow pretty strong in his face at home, and from every probability presented to the eye of human foresight, the gale was likely to increase. He quitted his farm here before his pro-

perty was all expended—took all his agricultural implements along with him, and a good stock of clothing, &c. His friend had a farm ready bespoke for him, on his landing at Bedeque; and the second day after setting his foot upon the Island, he was at work felling the trees where his house was to stand; and his first crop of potatoes were to be planted, assisted by three sons, all nearly as able for work as himself. He got his house erected for eight pounds, after purchasing boards at a saw-mill for the floor and cover; he digged the cellar and built the chimney himself. He sold a pair of fanners, which cost him 4l. sterling here, at 9l. sterling there; a plough, which had new timber and old irons, he sold at 5l. and by giving a pound in with the plough, he got a good cow.—

He had as many potatoes planted the first year as served the family till the end of April, and after earning 15l. with victuals, for sinking a draw well to a neighbour, he had ten acres of land ready for cropping the second spring he was upon the Island. His wife told me that the Island would do much better for them than the old country, and that they had only missed one thing, namely, to take as much oatmeal with them as to serve them 12 months; this they could have done she said, if they had known flour was to cost them 3d per lb. there. But as soon as oat and barley mills are erected over the Island, there will be no further need of this precaution.— They may then have plenty of oatmeal and barley flour, equal, if not superior, to any in Scotland; the soil there is so dry and sharp, the air so pure and the warmth so nourishing.

But why did this family feel themselves so comfortable, and appear to get on so prosperously? I will tell you in one word. They were suitable for the Island, and the Island for them. At home there were larger demands made upon them for rent, &c. than the utmost exertions of industry, with the most rigid economy, could enable them to meet. They had indulged themselves in none of those refinements

of food and dress which ruin many a family at home, and unfit them for emigrating; and the darkness of the prospect before this family at home had prepared them for meeting with difficulties abroad. And being inured to the most laborious exertions of manual labour in the old country, they find that a little perseverance in the same way in that new world, will immediately procure for them every needful present comfort, and secure, to a certain extent, future independence. I met with a Mr Donald McDonald, at Three Rivers, who had been formerly at the Island several years; he had then taken a farm, where he had made a good clearance, but he was advised by his brother, in Scotland, to sell it and return home again. Yet when he found the difficulties he had to meet with himself in the old country, as well as the dark prospect presented to his family, he set out a second time to the Island, took a new farm, and is going on most perseveringly in clearing it. Now here is a man that had tried both countries, and who gave the preference to the Island, after all the difficulties and deficiencies that attend it. I shall only add further upon this subject, that I found some settlers who told me that when they first saw the Island, that if it had been all their own, they would have given it all in compliment to have been home again, but who declared they were now glad they were there, since they were sure they were in more comfortable circumstances than there was any likelihood they could have been in at home, considering the nature of the times.

But if it be a fact, which I have every reason to believe it is, that our country is rapidly increasing in population, some must emigrate, or fare the worse at home. I think it might be a very advisable plan for such as are unfit or unwilling to go themselves, to give assistance to such as are well fitted for and willing to go, but who are not in possession of the requisite supplies for such a project. Were farmers to assist farmers, tradesmen, tradesmen, and labourers,

labourers, the scheme, I hope, would be found both prudent and salutary. Those who are fit for going abroad, might by this plan be enabled, and would, I have no doubt, find their industry and exertions well remunerated there, for which at home they could not find sufficient employment or an adequate reward; and those who remain at home would find themselves no losers for giving a little help to encourage others to go abroad. I would advise those great land proprietors who are intending to break up their small farms in order to form large ones, likewise to lend their helping hand; and those of their small tenants or cotters, for whom it would be imprudent to emigrate, I would advise in this case the grant of small lots of land, in suitable corners, at reasonable rents, where they might keep a cow, and with a little assistance erect themselves neat and comfortable houses to dwell in. These miniature farms and cottages, if handsomely done up, would derogate nothing from the beauty and ornament of their estates, * nor their inmates, if virtuous and industrious, from the comfort or conveniency of themselves or their larger tenants. But if they persist in sweeping them from their estates in the country, like useless lumber, regardless where they shall find a house to hide their heads in, where shall they go to but to the neighbouring towns, where they can have no means of living comfortably, and where their children will be much exposed to a school of vice, which may cause them at a future period, to become the

* It must prove highly gratifying to the feelings of every real philanthropist, when travelling along the road, and surveying the splendid hall of the Lord of the Manor—the more modest but commodious standing of the extensive farmer—next to cast his eyes upon the clean and comfortable cabin of the humble cottager, with a small inclosure of land attached to it, capable of yielding a portion of these essential comforts of life to a family, namely, milk, meal, and potatoes. Such a person will be ready to exclaim, “Here is a spot of earth, the property of one who has wisely considered the case of the poor, and therefore falls heir to the promise of being blessed, and the humble occupants, though poor, must have something commendable about them, for they have been highly favoured of their kind and considerate Master!”

pests of society. But I must ask your pardon for this digression. Being seated at my own fireside while penning this, I almost forgot that I was writing about emigration, and a foreign country. I would say further, that if government were to employ some of their idle ships and sailors in transporting those that might offer themselves as emigrants, free of expense, to any of the British colonies, I apprehend it would have the most salutary effect in relieving the public of great numbers who might do much better abroad than they possibly can at home; but unless assisted, they must remain as a burthen, both to themselves and others. And in the last place, that all due encouragement should be given to those colonies connected with Great Britain, in the way of a reciprocal trade and intercourse, in order to promote their comfort, and secure their best affections, that they may continue faithful and devoted subjects of the mother country.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER NINTH.

MAXWELLTOWN, FEB. 20, 1822.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

I could not crowd in, in my last communication, all the things proper yet to be noticed concerning the Island, and also the various articles requisite for accommodating the new settler there.— You will observe I have not yet taken that notice of the fish, animals, and fowls, so as to satisfy the inquisitive reader. One of my reasons for delaying a particular description of each of these was, my fear that I might not have room for inserting what I considered more useful matter. But learning from the Printer that there will yet be room for another Letter, within the bounds fixed upon for the size of the book, I shall continue to write, for I have

abundance of subjects yet to discuss, while there is room to print. Of the finny tribe, I begin with the herrings. No sooner is the ice cleared out of the rivers and bays in the spring, than great shoals of herrings rush in to many of them in various parts of the Island, principally on the north and eastern sides; the settlers catch them with nets, and barrel them up for family use, all the year round.— But herrings and potatoes are poor feeding at the best, and their herrings caught in the spring are poorer in themselves than those of Scotland. The next that make their appearance is a very small kind of fishes, about the size of one's finger, called smelts; these are driven in upon some of the shores with the tide in such amazing numbers, that with a drag net one might fill several barrels with them during one tide. The cod fish follow these, and next make their appearance, and the people continue fishing them the whole summer over, a little way from the shore, in boats or larger craft, with hooks and lines. They make oil from their livers, which they burn in lamps for light in the winter. Mackerel also occasionally visit their rivers and bays. There are a few salmon in some of the rivers, (although I never saw any caught, except by the Indians) and a smaller kind of fish called salmon trout, are caught in several places; I thought them the finest eating of all the fish that they had.— There are also bass, haddock, sturgeon, perch, flounders, eels, toimey-cod, elwives, &c. Many of the natives prize the eels above all the other fish, but I never ate them with a good relish, though they are certainly the fattest and strongest fish in Prince Edward's.— They have great numbers of lobsters, oysters, and various other kinds of shell fish, and some seals.— There are great banks of mussels in several of the rivers. The stuff found in these banks, when laid upon the land, brings the best crops of any I saw upon the Island, and to have some of these mussel banks near one's farm is of great advantage.

The black cattle have been in part described.—

They are degenerating in size and weight. One of the old settlers told me the oxen, since he came to the Island, were decreased in weight more than 200lb; and that if any person were to bring a young bull and heifer to the Island, of a very heavy and hardy breed, he would be amply rewarded. The gendering of their cattle at so early a period, which they cannot prevent, and their poor feeding in the winter, I apprehend, are the principal causes of this decrease in bulk and weight. They would also be better of a heavier breed of horses. There is not an ass upon the whole Island. I believe, those that would take out a male and female of this species, of a heavy make, might procure 100 acres of land for them. Their swine have also degenerated very much. They can manage to castrate the males, but the females they cannot, and are in great want of a person to teach them this art. Their sheep would also be better of being improved in the breed. The wild animals are bears, red, silver gray, and black foxes, the wild cat; or lucefee, (it is as big as a grey hound) martins, minks, musk rats, three different kinds of squirrels, the ground squirrel, the climbing and the flying squirrel. I never had the pleasure of seeing the one last mentioned, but the others are very plentiful; and it is very amusing to observe their motions, and hear their chirping and cooing when travelling in the woods. There are hares, but they are small, and their fur is of little value; they are gray in summer, and white in winter. There is a reptile called a snake, but it does no harm. There are two kinds of frogs, or, I suppose, toads and frogs; they are of the same bulk as in Scotland, but more lively; and one of the species, which I consider as the real frog, is much brighter and more beautiful in its variegated colours than ours, and will spring twice as far at one leap. There are rats and mice the same as at home, and field mice that stay in the woods; but there is not a mole in the whole Island.

Having mentioned that there are bears upon the

Island, some will be ready to say we would not like to go to a country where these ferocious animals are; we might be torn to pieces by them. Well, I can assure you, I never had the pleasure, or rather the alarm, of seeing one of them alive, after all the solitary journies I made through the largest woods upon the Island, with no other instrument of self-defence but a walking staff. But the truth is, there are a few of them yet in the woods, which are seen occasionally by the inhabitants. And now and then in certain solitary places in the woods, some of the black cattle and sheep are falling a prey to them and the wild cat, while the lambs are also occasionally attacked by foxes. But I could never obtain positive evidence that one human being had ever been really killed by the bears upon the Island. I met with several, both Indians and others, who had killed one or more of both the bears and wild cats, and a Highlandman at the head of St. Peter's Bay told me, he had killed 38 bears in 29 years, by shooting them, and by setting traps of wood which the Indians have learned them to construct. He told me he sometimes made them shoot themselves. I saw the Indians dissecting a very large bear at their camp at Murray Harbour, about the first of June last, on which occasion they had caught two of them in wooden traps, and which they esteem excellent eating. I was told that neither bulls nor horses were ever known to be destroyed by them, but several bulls have been known to destroy them in defence of the cows. I believe they are decreasing in numbers greatly, for there is not near the damage done by them now, that is reported to have been done formerly. In one settlement, where I was told they had broke open the hyre door, and eaten a beast at the stake,* they

* The circumstance alluded to above, happened at a Mr Campbell's, Montague River, (Three Rivers.) He was awoke out of his sleep one night with the roaring of a young heifer in the hyre; he got up, pulled on his trowsers, and ran out to the place from which the cry proceeded. He saw like a black beast lying in the middle of the door; he put his

are now never seen nor heard of. If I find room for a few anecdotes of rencounters the settlers have had with them, I shall insert them at the bottom of the page, and at present pass on to describe the feathery tribe, both tame and wild.

They have turkies, geese, ducks and common poultry, the same as in Britain, but they must all be kept close in the house over winter; and their out houses are generally so open and cold, that if they do lay eggs, they are generally rent with the frost before they are noticed. Some of the farmers keep very large flocks of every kind, and in the summer they produce eggs most plentifully. Wild geese, and a

hands down on each side of it, repeating the words: "What are you doing here?" (naming the heifer) and to his great surprise he got the bear in his arms! The bear had broken the door, (it was likely not strong), and had pulled the heifer as near the door as the rope that it was bound with would allow. Bruin then laid himself down to fill his belly from the hind quarters of the living beast; but he no sooner felt himself taken hold of by Mr C. than he sprung up and struck him a blow with his fore paw which laid him flat; he got up again and was knocked down a second time; but on his again getting to his feet, the bear sprung up with its paws upon each of his shoulders, and fastening its teeth in the crown of his head, it tore a piece of the flesh from his skull, which, as he showed me, remains bare to the present day. At this alarming juncture, when the bear had taken hold of him, his wife came out with a piece of burning birch bark in her hand, at sight of which the bear took fright and ran away. — A brother of this Highlander's had a sow and pigs, which had gone a little into the wood; in the evening they heard the pigs squeaking, and the sow making a great noise. Mr C. was at his own door with an axe in his hand; his dog heard the noise and broke away, and he followed with the axe; the dog attacked the bear, but was immediately put to flight, and ran back to his master, the bear following. Mr C. having the dauntless spirit of a Highlander, kept his ground, till the bear came close up to him—he drew a stroke, and with one well laid on blow upon the side of the bear's head, he laid him dead at his feet.—I heard of another Highlander who was residing on Lot 49; who was seized by the bear. The animal got hold of him, and was bearing him off in its hug, when he recollected in this dilemma that he had a dirk upon him, and getting one of his hands (I believe the left one) disentangled, so as to draw the dirk, he thrust a deadly stab to the heart of the bear, which brought the animal and himself both to the ground, but the bear fell uppermost, and it was said he had great difficulty in disentangling himself from the grasp of the dying animal. This man I might have seen if I had called in time, as I often passed near his house; but he was dead, I heard, before I left the Island. But the bears are now getting much shyer, and are seldom seen or heard of doing any damage among the cattle now any where.

water fowl they call brant, and various kinds of ducks, visit the Island in the spring and fall, and wild pigeons in the summer. They have a great many partridges in the woods, but they differ greatly from those in Scotland; they have long tails like the moor game at home, and they are exceedingly tame when they happen upon them; but they are not easy to find in the woods without a dog, and no British pointer will set them. The dogs they have for this purpose lay their foot upon the tree where they find them sitting, and keep barking, and the fowls looking down at them with contempt, till the fowler comes up and shoots them: and if he is so cautious as to shoot those that are sitting on the lower branches first, the rest will look on till he charge and shoot the whole covey.— They are large, and in the proper season fat, and very fine eating. There are several sorts of plovers, and snipes, and some of the species of eagle, different kinds of hawks and owls, and a kind of carrion crow. There is a bird called the wood pecker; this bird lives upon the worms and maggots found below the bark, and in holes and crevices in the trees. It is particularly fitted by nature, both by its claws and bill, for searching for and procuring its food; its claws are so amazingly sharp, that it can run perpendicularly up the trunk of the hardest barkless tree, and its bill so taper as to enter the smallest hole, and at the same time so hard and strong, that it can drive the bark from the trees, making a noise as if the trees were struck with a hammer. It is about the size of a small hawk. They have what they call the robin, but it resembles the robin here in nothing but the red breast; it is rather larger than the thrush, and sings very sweetly after a refreshing shower in summer; but it leaves the Island all winter, with many others, which I cannot name. But they have what they call the blue bird, the snow bird, a black bird, and the beautiful humming bird is sometimes found in the gardens.

They export live stock of all kinds, grain and po-

tatoes, to Newfoundland, and grain, pork, and potatoes, to Miramichi, and grain and potatoes to Halifax. But the importation of potatoes from Ireland, at Newfoundland, the fall of the price of timber at Miramichi, and the very low price at which flour from the States is imported at Halifax, has greatly injured their market at all these ports. Indeed, it is my opinion, that Great Britain constitutes the fountain-head and heart's blood of the trade of the whole civilized world; and if she gets faint and low spirited, trade must flag every where in proportion. This has caused great deficiency in their returns from all these ports lately. But the Islanders enjoy a privilege which many of the labouring classes at home cannot at present obtain; they may all be employed in cultivating the ground, and the ground, I have heard it said, is so very grateful, that no man ever yet bestowed prudent labour upon it but it repaid him for his toil. *But they have all need to be taught this lesson, that their success in agriculture must spring from the dunghill.* Instead of going a fishing, fowling, or making timber, if they were to repair to the shores to collect the kelp and sea weed—to the mussel banks for what is called mussel mud, or to the woods to gather fern to rot down to dung, and to the sides of their marshes to throw up compost dunghills, in all these ways they might provide good manure for their land. They might have to exercise the patience of the husbandman in waiting for their reward, but in proportion to their exertions in this way, they may depend upon its abundance. Plenty of good manure, if the land it is laid upon is well cultivated, will generally bring good crops, both white and green. A good crop will not only furnish present food for man and beast, but also the means of enriching the land in future (provided the dung is taken care of, as directed), that a continuance of good crops may be expected. By pursuing this plan, they might exchange their fish and potatoes three times a day for the good substantial food of

the old country. They might also grow wool and flax in abundance for clothing, as well as raise excellent sowing flax-seed, which could be exported to Britain as an article of trade; and I have no doubt it would be found to answer better than any brought from the United States for that purpose. They might and ought also to cultivate hemp, for they need a great deal of cordage; and at present this article is both dear, and difficult to be got upon the Island. Their clear land should be divided into small inclosures, with hedges or stripes of beech planted round them. This would keep the snow lying upon the surface all winter, and in that case they might raise excellent winter wheat. An agricultural society should be formed, for the encouragement of all those things, and many others, which I have not room to point out. I must now state a few things they have not, and are in great want of. They have not a dyer nor dresser of cloth upon the Island; they have not a bookbinder, cutler, nailer, batter, or roper. Brick makers and pipe makers might, I think, all meet with encouragement, for there is plenty of pipe and other clay for these purposes upon the Island. The laws of the Island are the same as those of England.*

* "The Island is governed by a Lieutenant Governor, Council, and General Assembly, by whom the laws are enacted: the Council consists of six or eight Members, who are appointed by the Governor, and by the King's instruction, are to be proprietors and principal landholders. The Members of the General Assembly are 18 in number, who are chosen by a majority of the landholders, leaseholders, and resident housekeepers. All laws that respect property, are, by the King's instruction, to contain a clause, suspending their operation till they have been sent to England, and received the royal assent." The only tax paid upon the Island is a duty of tenpence currency per gallon upon rum and wine. This, by the laws of the Island, ought to be laid out in making roads and bridges, and other necessary improvements; but a very compliant House of Assembly transferred, by their vote, the sole management of this fund to a former Governor, without reserving the power in their own hands of calling him to account how he may have laid out the money, or whether it has been laid out at all. If the present Governor, his Excellency Charles Douglas Smith, were to restore this lost right to the House of Assembly, he would be accounted by the Islanders as generous in civil matters, as his far-famed brother,

I promised long ago to make some further observations, in order to assist the intending emigrant to make a judicious choice, where to place himself for his greatest present benefit, and also that of his posterity. I must say, with regard to the land, it is nearly all of one kind and quality every where; if one sees a good crop in one place, the same management would bring nearly as good a one all over the Island. To be near Charlotte Town has many advantages, both with regard to what they have to sell, and what they have to buy; and I would prefer the southern side of the Island to the northern, as it has more good harbours, and is more convenient for importing coals and lime from Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Coals will be needed whenever the timber gets scarce for fire-wood; and even in the meantime lime would be of great advantage to their land every where, particularly as a very small portion would serve the purpose. I would advise every settlement to join and procure a cargo without delay, as I am persuaded it would greatly improve their crops of every kind, and also their pasture.

But I must now hasten to a close. In all the statements I have made, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, has been the sole object I have had in view. I have not intentionally thrown the least false colouring over neither the darker nor the brighter parts of the picture; and if, from the faithfulness of the drawing, that Island may not appear to the eye of the intending emigrant adorned with all the attractive charms of other British settlements in North America, yet I am afraid their giving a preference to any other will not make them great gain-

Sir Sidney Smith, has proved himself brave and clement in war. And as it said this can only be restored by an act of mere favour on the part of the Governor, I know of no single act of kindness that any Governor upon the island could do for them that would be more highly prized than the restoration of this lost right. There are two Jury Courts in the year held at Charlotte Town, and all the heads of families are liable to be called upon to serve on one of these juries during the space of ten days.

ers, every thing considered. Upper Canada has a richer, stronger soil, but it is far from market, both for imports and exports; and in many parts of it they have no good water. Besides, almost every one that goes there takes the fever and ague; and other fevers, which they call the lake fever and cannon fever, are also prevalent. It has been the scene of contending armies, and may again be the same. New Brunswick, including St John's and Miramichi, has a soil in general more sandy and light, except a long way up St John's River, than that of Prince Edward Island. Nova Scotia and Cape Breton have timber as heavy as it is upon the Island; and after that is cleared away, the stones found upon many parts require as much labour as the wood to clear the soil, and make it fit for agriculture; and the grain and potatoes are seldom so good in their quality as upon the Island, and much oftener a failing crop is to be expected from the injurious nature of the fogs and blighting damps. And as the Island has the most pure and healthful air, water of the very best quality in numerous springs, or at no great depth to sink for, a dry pleasant soil for cultivation when once cleared of the timber, almost the whole of it sufficiently level for all the purposes of agriculture, and seldom a failing crop but when the cultivator has himself to blame for it—its local situation the most convenient for trading in all directions, and none of the inland parts far from the shore, protected on all sides from the rude incursions of a foreign foe, and requiring only more settlers, more mechanics of every kind, more clearances, better roads and bridges, oat and barley mills, &c. to render it as pleasant a place to live in as the climate will admit of.—I am, &c.

TO THE READER.

For want of room, I have been obliged to suppress the Description of the Fruit Trees, and various productions of the Garden. The History of the Island, and the State of Religion there, I may treat of in another publication; if the present is well received by the public.

J. Swan, Printer, Dumfries.

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